QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AT THE MEETINGS OF THE

Council of the Governor of Fort St. George

ASSEMBLED

FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

(1893—1909)

(IN TWO VOLUMES)

VOL. I (1893–1899)

WITH INDEX.

MADRAS :
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1910



PREFATORY NOTES.

When the Honourable Member who gave notice of a question was not present at the meeting to put the question himself and the question was put by some other Honourable Member on his behalf, the names of both the Honourable Members have been given.

2. The Roman figures in square brackets after the Arabic numbers of questions indicate the serial numbers of the questions for each meeting.

3. Where in a question or answer reference is made to another question or answer at the same or at a different meeting, the page of the volume at which the question or answer so referred to appears has been noted in the margin.

4. When a question has been repeated at a meeting subsequent to that at which it was first put, the identity of the two questions has been noted in each place.

5. The date of the meeting to which the questions on a page relate has been noted at the top of the page.

6. In the index, the subject-matter of questions has been classified according to the departments of the Secretariat to which they relate, the entries relating to each department being arranged in the alphabetical order of the subjects.

LIST OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS (1893—1899).

I.—Officials.

Name.	Period of office.	
	From	To
Arundel, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir Arundel Tagg	3rd January 1894 ..	3rd January 1896.
	6th ,, 1896 ..	4th ,, 1897.
	26th October 1897 ..	11th June 1898.
Austin, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Ware Plumptre	7th November 1893 ..	14th ,, 1894.
Bhashyam Aiyangar, *Kt.*, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir Vembakam.	5th February 1897 ..	21st March 1898.
	1st November 1899 ..	22nd ,, 1900.
Campbell, R.E., the Hon'ble Colonel D. McNeil	14th February 1896 ..	21st October 1897.
Clogstoun, C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. Herbert Frederick	9th June 1893 ..	2nd January 1894.
Crole, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Charles Stewart	4th December 1893 ..	4th December 1895.
	12th ,, 1895 ..	12th ,, 1897.
	16th April 1898 ..	26th August 1898.
Duncan, M.A., LL.D., D.Sc., the Hon'ble Mr. David	23rd October 1894 ..	23rd October 1896.
	4th November 1896 ..	4th November 1898.
	14th ,, 1898 ..	27th ,, 1899.
Forbes, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir George Stuart	20th December 1897 ..	3rd June 1898.
	11th June 1898 ..	11th ,, 1900.
Galton, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Charles Arthur	9th ,, 1893 ..	15th March 1894.
Gibson, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Edward	9th January 1894 ..	4th April 1896.
Grose, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. James	7th November 1893 ..	9th January 1894.
LeFanu, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. William Joseph Henry	2nd December 1898 ..	10th August 1899.
Monro, M.A., B.C.L., the Hon'ble Mr. Alexander	7th November 1893 ..	23rd October 1894.
Nicholson, K.C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir Frederick Augustus	10th August 1899 ..	5th December 1900.
Pennycuick, R.E., C.S.I., the Hon'ble Colonel John	7th November 1893 ..	14th February 1896.
Price, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir John Frederick	14th ,, 1892 ..	5th October 1896.
	4th January 1897 ..	26th ,, 1897.
Rajaratna Mudaliyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Pakam ..	4th November 1896 ..	4th November 1898.
	14th ,, 1898 ..	5th ,, 1901.
Ross, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. Henry Thomas	21st March 1898 ..	Died, 14th May 1898.
Spring, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Francis Joseph Edward .. .	16th December 1899 ..	5th December 1900.
Spring-Branson, the Hon'ble Mr. James Henry	17th February 1892 ..	5th February 1897.
Srinivasa Raghava Aiyangar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Seshadri.	7th November 1893 ..	6th August 1896.
Stokes, C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. Gabriel	3rd December 1896 ..	4th December 1897.
	3rd June 1898 ..	3rd June 1900.
Stuart, the Hon'ble Mr. George Henry	12th November 1897 * ..	12th November 1899.
	27th ,, 1899 ..	9th ,, 1903.
Sturrock, I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. John	28th March 1894 ..	30th March 1896.
	4th April 1896 ..	20th December 1897.
	4th ,, 1898 ..	24th November 1899.
Thomson, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir James	20th December 1897 ..	16th April 1898.
	22nd September 1898 ..	22nd September 1900.
White, *Kt.*, the Hon'ble Sir Charles Arnold	21st March 1898 ..	31st October 1899.
Winterbotham, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir Henry Martin	4th April 1896 ..	29th May 1896.
	20th December 1897 ..	9th November 1898.

* Nominated on the recommendation of the Senate of the University of Madras.

List of Additional Members (1893—1899)—*cont.*

II.—Non-Officials.

Name.	Name of local body that recommended, if any.	Period of office. From	To
Ananda Gajapati Raz, Mani Sultan Bahadur, G.C.I.E., of Vizianagram, the Hon'ble Maharaja Mirza Sir Pusapati.	....	15th March 1892 ..	15th March 1894.
		3rd April 1894 ..	3rd April 1896.
Arbuthnot, *Kt.*, the Hon'ble Sir George Gough.	Chamber of Commerce ..	8th January 1895 ..	29th March 1895.
		29th March 1897 ..	30th July 1898.
Arbuthnot, the Hon'ble Mr. Reginald James Hugh.	....	6th January 1892 ..	20th March 1893.
Bhashyam Aiyangar, *Kt.*, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir Vembakam.	....	6th December 1892 ..	6th December 1894.
		18th December 1894 ..	5th February 1897.
		21st March 1898 ..	31st October 1899.
Boyson, the Hon'ble Mr. John Alexander.	Chamber of Commerce ..	20th March 1893 ..	12th April 1893.
		23rd June 1893	11th December 1894.
Chambers, the Hon'ble Mr. George Lawson.	Do. ..	3rd May 1895	12th March 1897.
Ghulam Muhammad Hasan Ali, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur.	....	21st December 1893 ..	21st December 1895.
Ghulam Muhammad, the Hon'ble Mr. ..	....	15th January 1898 ..	15th January 1900.
Hodgson, the Hon'ble Mr. Henry Percival.	....	14th February 1896 ..	14th February 1898.
		24th February 1898 ..	24th February 1900.
Humayun Jah Bahadur, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mir.	....	15th March 1892 ..	Died in December 1893.
Jambulinga Mudaliyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Caroongooly.	Northern group of District Boards.	31st August 1895 ..	31st August 1897.
		16th October 1897 ..	16th October 1899.
		31st October 1899 ..	31st October 1901.
Kalyanasundaram Aiyar, the Hon'ble Mr. K.	Southern group of District Boards.	29th July 1893	29th July 1895.
	Southern group of Municipalities.	31st August 1895 ..	31st August 1897.
Miller, M.A., LL.D., D.D., C.I.E., the Hon'ble the Rev. Mr. William.	Senate of the University of Madras.	1st August 1893 ..	1st August 1895.
		8th August 1895 ..	12th April 1897.
Moore, *Kt.*, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Lieut.-Col. Sir George Montgomerie John.	....	11th June 1898	11th June 1900.
Muhammad Sharif, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Vellore.	....	6th January 1896 ..	6th January 1898.
Norton, the Hon'ble Mr. Eardley John.	Municipal Commissioners, Madras.	22nd September 1899 ..	22nd September 1901.
Ramasubbaiyyar, the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur S. R.	Southern group of Municipalities.	29th July 1893	29th July 1895.
Ranga Rao Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Raja of Bobbili, the Hon'ble Maharaja Sri Rao Sir Venkatasvetachalapati.	....	4th April 1896 ..	11th February 1904.
Rangayya Nayudu, the Hon'ble Mr. P.	Municipal Commissioners, Madras.	23rd June 1893	23rd June 1895.
		17th July 1895	17th July 1897.
		31st July 1897	31st July 1899.
Ratnasabhapati Pillai, the Hon'ble Mr. P.	Southern group of District Boards.	16th October 1897 ..	16th October 1899.
	Southern group of Municipalities.	31st October 1899 ..	31st October 1901.
Romilly, the Hon'ble Mr. George ..	....	14th June 1894	14th February 1896.
Sabhapati Mudaliyar, the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur A.	Northern group of District Boards.	29th July 1893	29th July 1895.
Sankaran Nayar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. Chettur.	....	20th July 1891 ..	20th July 1893.
		5th August 1893 ..	5th August 1895.
		17th August 1895 ..	17th August 1897.
Sankarasubbaiyar, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. S.	....	20th December 1897 ..	20th December 1899.
Subba Rao Pantulu, the Hon'ble Mr. Nyapati.	Northern group of Municipalities.	29th July 1893 ..	29th July 1895.
		31st August 1895 ..	31st August 1897.
		16th October 1897 ..	16th October 1899.
Turnbull, the Hon'ble Mr. Stewart Robertson.	Chamber of Commerce ..	6th September 1898 ..	9th May 1899.
Vans Agnew, the Hon'ble Mr. Charles Edward Patrick.	Do. ..	7th July 1899	6th December 1899.
Venkataratnam Pantulu, the Hon'ble Mr. Ganjám.	Northern group of Municipalities.	31st October 1899 ..	31st October 1901.
Vijayaraghavachariyar, the Hon'ble Mr. C.	Southern group of District Boards.	31st August 1895 ..	31st August 1897.
	Southern group of Municipalities.	16th October 1897 ..	16th October 1899.
	Southern group of District Boards.	31st October 1899 ..	31st October 1901.

LIST OF MEETINGS (1893—1899).

Date of meeting.	Numbers of questions asked.
1893.	
17th January	*Nil.*
28th February	1–3
28th March	4
12th April	*Nil.*
14th November	5–25
* 15th ,,	*Nil.*
12th December	26–38
* 18th ,,	*Nil.*
* 20th ,,	*Nil.*
1894.	
5th January	39–49
7th March	50–74
9th April	75–103
20th November	104–128
1895.	
22nd January	129–175
15th February	176–187
13th March	188–219
19th ,,	*Nil*
* 20th ,,	*Nil.*
8th April	220–243
4th November	244–260
18th December	261–281
1896.	
26th February	282–308
11th March	309–313
* 12th ,,	*Nil.*
* 13th ,,	*Nil.*
8th April	314–373
9th December	374–436
1897.	
9th February	437–512
9th April	513–567
23rd November	568–625
1898.	
1st February	626–659
4th April	660–697
13th May	698–725
13th June	*Nil.*
13th December	726–761
1899.	
24th January	762–774
9th March	775–817
7th April	818–850
6th June	851–893
14th November	894–945
19th December	946–979

* These are adjourned meetings.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AT MEETINGS OF

THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

VOLUME I.

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1. MEETING OF THE 28TH FEBRUARY 1893.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR *for* the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur BHASHYAM AIYANGAR :—

1 & 2. *Questions.* **1** [I].—Under the scheme of re-organization of the Madras Educational Service submitted for the approval of the Government of India and the Secretary of State, will an officer of distinguished merit and ability in the Provincial Service be eligible for promotion into the Imperial Service ?

2 [II].—Are the Professorships of Sanskrit and Mathematics proposed to be included in the Provincial Service or in the Imperial Service ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Stokes :—

1 & 2. *Answers.* **1.** The intention is that the Imperial Educational Service shall be recruited entirely in England. Provincial officers can, however, be appointed to act in Imperial Service posts on increased allowances.

2. There will be no specific rule as to the Professorships mentioned in the question. The scheme provides that three Professorships now held by the Graded Service shall be filled by Provincial Service men. What these will be will depend upon circumstances from time to time.

My answers refer to the scheme as submitted to the Government of India. It is, of course, subject to modification by that Government and by the Secretary of State.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR:—

3 [III] *Question.*—(1) Whether the Government have ascertained the cause of the toddy-drawers' strike in Malabar and whether there is any prospect of an early settlement of that strike which has already lasted some months, and whether anything has been done by the Government towards such settlement?

(2) Whether it is a fact that the strike is due to the oppression of the subordinate officials and peons in the department?

(3) Whether the Government have any information as to the number of men out of employ on account of the strike?

(4) Whether there has been any increase in crime either under any special laws or under the Indian Penal Code wholly or partially due to such strike or to the destitution or distress caused by such strike?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin:—

Answer.—The toddy-drawers' strike is not general throughout Malabar. It exists only in $2\frac{1}{2}$ of the northernmost taluks of the district where Tiyar influence is very powerful. The Government have ascertained that the origin of the strike was a determination on the part of the toddy-drawers of a portion of the Chirakal taluk to resist the introduction of the toddy rules, the effect of which was designed to be a diminution of the facilities enjoyed by the real or pretended tappers of sweet-toddy of evading the tax on the manufacture and sale of toddy and also to rebel against the whole system by which the Government control the enormous drink-traffic of Malabar. The strike has been artificially stimulated by professional agitators who used to be the contractors under the old system. These men are interested in getting rid of the tree-tapping system and induced the toddy-drawers to strike by misrepresenting to them the intentions of Government. The Government believe that there is every prospect of the strike coming to an end shortly. Steps have been taken for some time past by the district officers to try and bring about this result. The Collector held mass meetings of tappers at which they were invited to express their grievances and their misconceptions were explained away. In the middle of October last a notice was issued to shopkeepers that if they would open their shops and commence business a remission of their kists up to date would be given them and other trees marked free of charge in place of those of which the spathes had been cut by strikers, provided the shopkeepers themselves had not been concerned in the strike. Subsequently, the time for re-opening their shops was extended to the 15th December. Re-sales of shops are now commencing, and it is anticipated that the buyers will commence business with energy.

(2) It is not a fact that the strike is due to the oppression of the subordinate officials and peons in the department. Every facility has been afforded for making complaints against the officers of the department of any such misconduct, but they have been rarely made and practically never substantiated. At the mass meetings held by the Collector he invited such complaints, but only one or two of a trifling nature were made, and even these were, it is believed, found not to be genuine.

(3) It is estimated that, at the height of the strike, as many as 4,000 or 5,000 persons may have been out of employment, but as the strike, so far as sweet toddy-tappers are concerned, is at an end, the number now out of employ is very much smaller, and is confined to tappers who are dependent on fermented toddy shopkeepers, and even these can, if they like, take to tapping sweet toddy.

(4) There has not only been no increase of crime under the Abkári Act in consequence of the strike, but a reduction of about 90 per cent. in its amount, while under the Penal Code the increase of crime resulting from the strike is believed not to have been large. There have been, however, several cases of rioting and it is also believed a good many petty thefts of cocoanuts which have not been reported.

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2. MEETING OF THE 28TH MARCH 1893.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur BHASHYAM AIYANGAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR:—

4 [I] *Question.*—(1) Whether the Board of Revenue have made their final proposals for the revision of the Land Revenue assessment in the Tanjore district?

(2) Whether such proposals will result in an increase in the assessment, and if so, what will be the percentage of such increase?

(3) Whether the Government proposes to pass orders immediately or will give the public and the people interested in the matter sufficient time to make their representation to Government on the proposals before them?

His Excellency the President:—

Answer.—(1) The reply is in the affirmative.

(2) Yes. The proposed increase amounts to $12\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees or to 30 per cent. approximately on the present demand.

(3) Orders will not be passed immediately. The Government desires that the public and the people interested should have every opportunity of bringing forward their views on these matters which so nearly affect them. During all the stages of the Tanjore Settlement the authorities have welcomed the fullest discussion and have furnished to all parties interested ample information as to the data upon which the proposed rates of assessment were based. In 1890 a memorandum was drawn up giving an abstract of Mr. Clerk's scheme, now before Government, and in January 1891 this was printed and distributed throughout the district. It was criticized in a long memorial presented by the Mirasidars which was duly considered by the Collector. In addition to this, "petitions "and representations, written and printed, to the number of 263, were sub- "mitted, and meetings were convened on the 11th, 13th and 15th April 1891 "at Negapatam, Tanjore and Kumbakónam, and were largely attended. "Spokesmen—for the most part pleaders—were put forward, and enforced "mainly what had found place in the memorials. Such information or "explanation as could properly be given was afforded when asked for. It "was very apparent, however" (says the Collector of Tanjore, from whose report the above extract is taken), "that the principles of settlement and "their applicability to Tanjore were far from being well known; that the "conditions of agriculture and land-holding as an occupation had only "recently received consideration from some at least of their exponents; "and that sober treatment of the question had become almost impossible "by their knowledge of the total increase of revenue, which the Deputy "Commissioner's proposals had worked out. (Mr. Clerk's proposed increase "was $14\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.) It may be assumed" (concludes the Collector) "that "the limit of adverse criticism has been reached and every trouble from "which the cultivator has suffered or can suffer has been fully declared, "while—a point of considerable importance—those most entitled to be "heard have had their say." This was written in July 1891, and since then Mr. Gibson, Member of the Board of Revenue, has twice visited the district on settlement duty and discussed the settlement proposals with all who came to see him. At an earlier stage of the settlement, Mr. Clogstoun, the Settlement Commissioner, also paid several visits to the Tanjore district, and whilst in the Shiyáli taluk held a meeting of the most important Mirasidars to discuss the suitability of what then appeared to be the probable new rates of assessment, and have proved to be very closely approaching those now proposed.

It will thus be evident that at different stages of the enquiry opportunities have been constantly given to the parties interested to make themselves fully acquainted with the proposals of the Settlement Officers and expressions of their views freely invited.

But before Government passes orders, I am anxious that the Board's final proposals should be fully considered, and have invited the Tanjore Peoples' Association to make such representations on them as they may think fit. In order to bring this into effect, I asked them to send a deputation to wait on me yesterday in Madras. But on this deputation making its appearance before me yesterday, it was represented that they had not had sufficient time to consider the Board's proposals in all its bearings, and begged that the conference might be postponed for some weeks. I have therefore adjourned the meeting till May 20th, and as soon as possible after the deputation shall have stated their case, the Government will pass final orders. I may add that should any other parties not connected with the above Association desire to make any representations on the subject, the Government is fully prepared to receive them.

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3. MEETING OF THE 14TH NOVEMBER 1893.

Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

5 [I] *Question.*—In view to the difficulty that is experienced by the Forest officers in distinguishing between cattle intended for agricultural and other purposes, is it the intention of Government to levy a uniform rate for all cattle, and if so, whether the rate is to be that now fixed for agricultural cattle ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—The Government has not yet passed any orders on the matter which is still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

6 [II] *Question.*—Is it a fact that orders have been issued by Government to the Forest officers to reserve the village common land set apart by the villagers for the grazing of their cattle ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—There is no village common land set apart by villagers for the grazing of their cattle. The village grazing lands where they exist are State property. Orders have been issued that all Government waste land which it is desirable to conserve and protect, as sources of fuel or fodder supply or as grazing grounds for cattle, should be legally conserved under the Forest Act. This will probably include areas of the kind alluded to, in order to prevent their alienation ; but their reservation will not only not interfere with proved right of grazing, but will record and preserve them.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

7 [III] *Question.*—Whether, in the interest of the public as well as the administration, the Government intend to transfer Deputy Collectors from time to time as is done in the case of District Munsifs and Subordinate Judges ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Deputy Collectors frequently are transferred ; on the average about once in every three years. The nature of their work is essentially different from that of District Munsifs and Subordinate Judges ; and the Government therefore considers that it would not be to the interest either of the public or of the administration to transfer them more frequently than can be helped.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

8 [IV] *Question.*—Whether any public convenience is secured by the office of the Malayalam Translator to Government being located at Kolar, a town in the Native State of Mysore ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—No.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

9 [V] *Question.*—Whether the Government obtained the opinion of its legal advisers with regard to the Marina notification published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 24th ultimo, and whether the Government thinks that the terms of the said notification are sufficiently definite not to give excessive discretion to the Police ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is "No" ; and to the second part of the question "Yes ."

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :— 1893.

10 [VI] *Question.*—As it is only open to Members of Council to final the Government on questions of public interest at meetings of the Legislat es' at which some formal legislative business is taken, will your Excellency's Gt be pleased to arrange for a larger number of meetings of the Legislative Coun hitherto, so as to afford members greater facilities for asking such questions ?

His Excellency the resident :—

Answer.—The Government cannot undertake to introduce legislation for the sole purpose of giving Hon'ble Members an opportunity of putting questions to the Government. But consistently with business principles, the Governmen will endeavour to give Hon'ble Members as many facilities as possib From the number of Bills now before the Council, I think Hon'ble Members will have no reason to apprehend any lack of opportunities in the immediate future.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

11 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government arrange to return to Madras from the Hills earlier than has been the custom—some time in August at the latest—in order that more meetings of the Legislative Council may be held in Madras ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Government cannot pledge themselves to return to Madras from the Hills at any specified time ; but if any urgent necessity should arise for holding a Legislative Council in Madras earlier than usual, I have no doubt the Government will not hesitate to return to Madras.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

12 [VIII] *Question.*—Whether, considering that some of the Non-official Members of the Council reside in the mofussil and that some of the Official Members also may have to leave Madras in the course of their official duties, your Excellency will be pleased to direct that the meetings of the Legislative Council be held at fixed times in the same manner as the Government has suggested to the Local Fund Boards and Municipal bodies under Acts IV and V of 1884 ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—This suggestion is one which the Government consider a very useful one, and it will be happy to try and carry it into effect after communication with Hon'ble Members. I may add, however, that there is no analogy between the business transacted by the Legislative Council and that of Municipal and Local Boards.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

13 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the fact that the officials entrusted with the distribution of water in deltaic tracts are entrusted with the responsible duty of supplying water in the proper season to an area varying from 10 to 50 thousand acres and that these officials receive salaries of from 40 to 70 rupees without travelling allowances, and that under the present system there are no regular rules published regarding any methodical distribution of water so as to enable the ryots to understand their own rights and privileges ?

(*b*) Will your Excellency's Government be pleased to direct an enquiry into this subject ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The facts are as stated in the question except that there are regular rules for the distribution of water, and that it is not believed that the ryots have any difficulty in understanding their own rights and privileges

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

116 & 117. *Answers.*—**116.** The names, pay, and travelling allowances of all District Board Engineers are published in the Civil List, to which the Hon'ble Member is referred. District Board Engineers are not divided into classes. There are no rules with regard to their appointment or qualifications excepting that the former is subject to the approval of Government, which, before according this, satisfies itself that the nominee of the President possesses sufficient technical knowledge to enable him to perform his duties.

117. The Government nearly a year ago laid down a rule that from the 1st January 1897 training in the local Civil Engineering College, or such approved service as it may consider equivalent to this, will be required as a qualification for all Public Works appointments under Local Boards carrying salaries of Rs. 100 and upwards and has intimated that preference should generally be given to men so trained.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR :—

118 & 119 *Questions.*—**118** [XV].—Has the Government of Madras any information as to whether Mr. Garthwaite, the Malayalam Translator to Government, means to keep his establishment at Madras or Kolar ?

119 [XVI].—Whether, in case he means to keep them at Kolar, the Government will be pleased to order that they (the establishment) may not be subjected to the hardship of remaining in such an out-of-the-way and inconvenient place as Kolar ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

118 & 119 *Answers.*—**118** The Government has no information, but Mr. Garthwaite will be referred to.

119. The Government will consider the matter when Mr. Garthwaite's reply is received.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

120 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to G.O., dated 31st July 1893, No. 677, directing that the increase involved in the scheme of re-settlement of the district of Tanjore should not exceed eleven lakhs of rupees, will the Government be pleased to state the actual amount of increase according to the scheme which has been given effect to by the Settlement department since the abovementioned order of Government ?

(*b*) Has the Settlement department carried out the instructions contained in the said Government Order to the effect that the scheme therein referred to should be modified with reference to the special conditions of irrigation and drainage of each locality, and, if so, what reductions have been allowed in consideration thereof—

(1) generally in respect of the whole district, and

(2) particularly in respect of the villages under the Kodamurti river, the irrigation under which is complained of as being defective ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The information asked for by the Hon'ble Member is not yet available, but will be furnished when the final report on the introduction of the new settlement has been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

121 [XVIII] *Question.*—Is it true that there is a proposal before Government to transfer the head-quarters of the Tahsildar of the taluk of Satyamangalam in the Coimbatore district from Satyamangalam, which seems to be situated nearly in the centre of the taluk, to the village of Gopichettipalaiyam situated almost in the eastern extremity thereof? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons necessitating such change or rendering it desirable?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In 1889, or five years ago, the Government decided upon the transfer of the head-quarters of the Satyamangalam taluk to Gopichettipalaiyam as being the most suitable place for the Tahsildar's office, and a new taluk kutcheri is now in course of construction at Gopichettipalaiyam. The reasons for the transfer will be found in the correspondence printed in G.O., dated 13th March 1889, No. 190, which was placed on the Editors' Table, and in G.O., dated 10th April 1891, No. 286, which will now be placed on the Council table?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

* 89–94 *supra*, paragraphs 36 and 37.

122 [XIX] *Question.*—In regard to the questions * asked by me at this Council on the 9th of April last about certain matters connected with criminal administration in Salem, to which Government said in reply that it had no information, will Government now state if it has taken any steps to obtain information, and, if it has, will the Government be pleased to give the information asked for at the previous meeting of the Council; if it has not, will the Government be pleased to call for a report in the said matter and place the same on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Government did not take any steps to obtain information on the questions asked by the Hon'ble Member, but on a petition which covered much the same ground as the Hon'ble Member's questions and which was presented by certain inhabitants of Salem, the District Magistrate was called on to report as to the conduct of the Deputy Magistrate. On the District Magistrate's report, the Government passed such orders as seemed to it to be necessary and these were communicated to the memorialists and are doubtless known to those who are principally interested in the matter. The Government sees no reason to take any further steps or to lay any papers before the Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

123 [XX] *Question.*—(1) Whether Government is aware that members of the Indian Civil Service, before receiving any practical training for the efficient administration of civil justice, are often appointed as Acting District Judges to preside over the highest civil tribunal in the district with appellate jurisdiction over experienced Subordinate Judges and District Munsifs.

(2) Will Government be pleased to consider what steps should be taken to place this branch of the Judicial service on a more efficient and satisfactory footing?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—(1) The Government is aware that the present condition of affairs is not so satisfactory as it might be.

(2) The subject is receiving the careful consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

124 [XXI] *Question.*—(1) Is it a fact, as stated in the *Pioneer* of the 4th November under the heading of "A story of Forest Administration," that certain Revenue officers in the Kurnool district seized logs of wood in forest tannahs though covered by permits, and also articles of domestic furniture, instruments of industry, etc., found in dwelling-houses as forest produce and that the owners of these latter articles were, under the orders of the District Collector, prosecuted and convicted in spite of the protest of Forest officers?

(2) Has Government received any report in the matter, and if so, will it be pleased to place the same on the table; if not, will it be pleased to call for one?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The article in the *Pioneer* was obviously based on information supplied by a Forest Ranger who had been reduced by the Conservator.

Most of the articles seized were not covered by permits, and in the case of those so covered there was reason to doubt if the permits were valid.

The so-called articles of domestic furniture and instruments of industry were mainly spokes and felloes of wheels, axle-boxes, ploughs, pestles, legs of cots, cot-frames and other small articles which are usually rough fashioned in the forests. There were only two cots, of which one was unfinished.

The articles were mainly seized not in the dwelling-houses of ryots, but in the possession of timber merchants and carpenters, and there was ground for suspicion, not only from information received, but because the articles were largely made of a kind of wood for which no permits had been issued since 1890.

It is incorrect to describe the Collector's action in prosecuting as being taken in spite of the protests of Forest officers. At the early stages all seemed to be agreed that offences had been committed in connection with the articles seized in the villages though there was difference of opinion in some cases as to whether they should be compounded or prosecuted. Later on the Ranger alone raised difficulties, but it was his habit to do so in his dealings with the Deputy Tahsildar. This officer, it may here be remarked, had not been placed in any position of authority over the Ranger as alleged in the article in the *Pioneer*.

In the cases of seizure of cart-loads of timber, the Ranger's protests could not be attended to until enquiry had been made about felling without permit, which he had failed to report or put a stop to. The explanation was not wholly satisfactory, but there was no proof of fraud and the timber was released on the recommendation of the District Forest-officer.

The convictions took place in due course of law. Two were confirmed by the District Magistrate on appeal after the appellants had withdrawn an application which they had made to the High Court for the transfer of the appeals. The extract from the speech of the Counsel for the defence—a second-grade pleader of the old school—is reported to be purely imaginary. No complaints from persons concerned have been received by Government or by the Board. In fact, the first report on the subject from the Board of Revenue has been received only to-day. It follows that the allegations as to the action of the Board and Government are absolutely false.

The report will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

125 [XXII] *Question*—(1) Whether Government is aware that when the notification was published in the Gódávari and Kistna District Gazettes Extraordinary on or about the 15th August 1894, enhancing the water-cess by 25 per cent. from the

current fasli, the sowing and transplanting season had advanced and that ryots had taken water from irrigation channels in the belief that it would be charged at the then prevailing rates.

(2) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which led to this notification after the commencement of the cultivating season and without allowing the ryots an opportunity to submit their representations with regard to the enhancement of the cess?

(3) Is it a fact that the notification published in the District Gazettes Extraordinary on the 13th September 1894, extending up to the 15th September the time (which had expired by the 31st March) for presenting applications for the discontinuance of Government water, was issued with the authority of Government?

(4) Whether Government is aware that this notification practically gave no option to the ryots as intended.

(5) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the reports, if any, of the District Collectors and of the Board of Revenue with the orders of the Government of Madras and the Government of India relating to the enhancement of the water-cess?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(1) Yes, and in consideration of this fact Government ordered that only water taken for land which had been irrigated for five years successively should be charged for at the new rate. It is difficult to imagine any case in which a ryot would give up the prospect of cultivating paddy because of the additional charge of one rupee an acre. The full option of refusing irrigation now allowed was not allowed under the old rules. It was granted chiefly because there were circumstances under which it was necessary that wet land should revert to dry. It is obvious that this consideration cannot affect these cases in which the land-owners resolved before the issue of the Government Order to persist in wet cultivation.

(2) The chief reasons are given in paragraph 9 of G.O., dated 2nd August 1894, No. 562-R., namely :—The settlement has already expired in a portion of the Gódávari district and in any case the revision of water-rates on land in zamindaris is unaffected by restrictions imposed by settlement. In 1865 the rate was raised by upwards of 33 *per cent.* upon the sole ground that the price of grain had greatly risen during the six years in which the three-rupee rate had been in force, and as the prices which would be taken into calculation for the purpose of commutation at the present time (omitting the abnormal prices of 1876–78) show, as compared with the commutation rate adopted at the time of last settlement, an increase of about 80 and 57 *per cent.* respectively for the two districts of Gódávari and Kistna, it was considered that the time had come for a further enhancement of the water-rate. Moreover the position of both districts in respect of communications has during the past few years been greatly improved by the opening of the Bellary-Kistna and the East Coast Railways.

(3) Yes, on the advice of the Collector of Kistna who in recommending it said : "I do not think that many if indeed any relinquishments will be actually made, but it is fair that an opportunity should be allowed." The Collector of Gódávari made no representation on the subject. The time in the Kistna district was afterwards extended by G.O., dated 19th September 1894, Mis. No. 3661, to the 30th September. It should be observed that no order allowing relinquishments was passed when the water-rate was enhanced in 1865. At that time no option was allowed, but land which had been rated as irrigated land was so rated till the means of irrigation failed completely.

(4) As I have stated * the time was extended in the Kistna district till the 30th September and the Government does not consider that any option was needed, for the reason given in my reply to the Hon'ble Member's first question. †

* Clause (3) *supra.*
† Clause ( ) *supra.*

in the matter or any hesitation in bringing their requirements before the officers of the Public Works and Revenue Departments. The evils arising from the employment of an inferior class of men in the distribution of water in the deltas have already attracted the attention of the officers of the department and proposal for the removal of the evils will shortly be laid before Government.

(*b*) As the subject is already under consideration and as the Hon'ble Member is himself furnishing a memorandum on the subject to Government, it does not appear necessary to institute any special enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

14 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the notifications issued by the District Magistrates of Kistna and Nellore, dated 10th and 16th October 1893, respectivley, in connection with the recent celebration of the Dasara festival in the towns of Masulipatam and Nellore?

(*b*) Whether the Government will be pleased to state the circumstances under which they were issued and the necessity for issuing them?

(*c*) And whether the Government approves of the said notifications?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes"; secondly the notifications in question were issued because the District Magistrates were of opinion that the manner in which it was proposed to celebrate the Dasara festival was calculated to cause just dissatisfaction to the Muhammadan inhabitants of the towns in question, and there was consequently danger of disturbances which it was necessary to provide against; thirdly, the Government approves of the issue of the notification in question in the case of Nellore. With regard to the notification issued by the Kistna District Magistrate, the Government understands that it was withdrawn by him on the 14th October. The matter is still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

15 [XI] *Question.*—Whether, in view of the strained condition of feeling that has of late been manifesting itself between Hindus and Muhammadans on the occasions of Dasara, Muharrum, etc., the Government does not think it desirable to appoint a committee of representative gentlemen to enquire into the matter and advise the Government on the best way of preventing all such temporary excitement of feeling arising between the two communities?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—I am happy to say that the Government considers that the state of feeling between the two classes mentioned is so far satisfactory in this Presidency that it is not necessary to appoint a committee as suggested.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR :—

16 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, in the case of Native convicts, they are put on "Ragi diet" as soon as they are admitted to jail, although until they were so admitted to jail, they were in the habit of living only on rice and not on ragi? And is it only in the case of Native convicts sentenced to twelve months' rigorous imprisonment and upwards they are allowed rice two days in a week?

(*b*) If it is a fact, does the Government of Madras mean to continue this practice, or is it going to view it with disfavour and take steps to discontinue it and give rice instead in all cases in which the Magistrate who commits the convicts to jail finds that they have been in the habit of living only on rice until they were so committed to jail?

(*c*) At all events, would the Government of Madras be pleased to direct that Native convicts unaccustomed to ragi diet be put on it gradually, so as to make it possible for them to acquire the habit of living on such diet?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Full information as to jail diets will be found in Jail Code, which the Secretary will be happy to show to the Hon'ble Member if he will apply to him. The whole question of the dietary in jails had recently been gone into with great care and the diet scales revised ; and the Government does not propose to make any alterations therein. If the *ragi* diet is found to disagree with convicts, the Medical officer has full authority to order a rice diet, for such period and to such extent, as he thinks necessary.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR :—

17 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the question of the supply of provisions to Government officers on tour, has the Government of Madras considered "whether the present arrangements sufficiently provide for the avoidance of hardship to the furnishers of supplies, and, if not, in what way they should be supplemented" ?

(*b*) In the present altered condition and circumstances of the country, is the intervention or interference of an officer of the position of a Tahsildar in any degree necessary or desirable in the matter of supplying provisions to local and other officers while at their head-quarters or on tour ?

(*c*) Whether, in this connection, the Government would be pleased to take into their consideration the expediency of granting Tahsildars some travelling allowance, more especially as their absence from head-quarters for twenty days in a month is enforced under the present rules ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first question is that the matter was fully considered by Government in May last, and they are of opinion that the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue in 1887 and the directions contained in Board's Standing Orders Nos. 205 and 209 are sufficient to prevent any abuse.

(*b*) The answer to the second question is that there is no need for the interference or intervention of the Tahsildars when at the head-quarters ; but where local or other officers are going on tour into a taluk it is often necessary for the Tahsildar to advise the monigar of the villages which the officers are likely to visit of their coming, in order that the monigar may make arrangements for supplying provisions on payment in cases where such supplies cannot be purchased from bazaars ; otherwise the officers would often not be able to get food ; the finding of supply for officers on tours, for travellers and for troops on the march is one of the duties of the village officers.

(*c*) The answer to the third question is that the question of granting travelling allowance to Tahsildars has recently been before Government who are disposed to regard it favourably ; but in view of financial considerations, it has been ordered to lie over for the present.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR :—

18 [XIV] *Question.*—Whether the Government of Madras has in view any proposal to increase the strength and emoluments of the clerks and accountants attached to the Taluk Cutcherry, having regard to the multifarious character of additional work which has devolved on the Tahsildar's office since the last reorganization of the Taluk establishment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—The scheme for the revision of Revenue establishment submitted by me to Government in 1885 contained a number of proposals, the most important of which were (1) the appointment of Stationary Sub-Magistrates to relieve Tahsildars of their magisterial duties, (2) the raising of the pay of the Revenue Inspectors, (3) the increasing of the establishments in Taluk offices, raising their pay and improving their prospects. The Secretary of State was unable to sanction the scheme in its entirety on account of the expense involved ; but the two first named portions have been carried into effect and the Government hope that before long it may be possible to carry out the last. They are fully aware how heavy the work is on Taluk officers and nothing would give them greater pleasure than to help to improve the position and prospects of the establishments and to strengthen them. It is entirely a question of expense and will be duly considered when funds are available.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR :—

19 [XV] *Question.*—Is it the view of Government that District officers have taken a maximum amount of interest in District Municipalities which may be fairly expected of them consistently with the Madras District Municipalities Act IV of 1884, or that better results in the working of Municipalities may be brought about by the District officers being requested to take greater interest in them than they have felt it their duty since the said Act came into operation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The reply to the first part of this question is in the affirmative ; as to the second part, better results might no doubt be brought about by increased interference on the part of District officers, but it would be contrary to the principles of Local Self-Government.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR :—

20 [XVI] *Question.*—Whether the Government of Madras thinks it any longer necessary to maintain in the Municipality of Negapatam the existing proportion of elected and nominated councillors, that is, half and half, whilst in all the other Municipalities in the district of Tanjore the proportion of elected to nominated councillors is greater, viz., three to one ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—No representation on the subject has reached Government since the existing proportion was fixed in 1886. Should one be made it will receive favourable consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

21 [XVII] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to state if a Bill to amend the Religious Endowments Act (XX of 1863) is likely to be introduced into the Legislative Council during this Session ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Government hope to send up the draft Bill on this subject to the Government of India in a few days. It is not possible to say if that Government will return it to us in time to introduce it into this Council during this Session.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

22 [XVIII] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to pass orders directing that the appointments of Honorary Magistrates shall be in force for only three years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider the issue of any such orders desirable, even if legal.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

23 [XIX] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to associate with each Settlement officer a covenanted or an uncovenanted Revenue officer of experience for the hearing and disposal of appeals in individual cases in connection with the revenue settlement now in progress in the Tanjore district ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider that there is any necessity for an arrangement such as that proposed in the question. The Deputy and Assistant Commissioners are always gazetted as Special Assistants to the Collector of the district when settlement is proceeding, and the Collector has therefore the general power of control over such officers. Moreover an appeal lies in all cases to the Board of Revenue. The present system has worked well in other districts and the Government sees no reason to make any special arrangement in the case of Tanjore. In this connection the Government desire to express their deep regret at the death of Diwan Bahadur J. Lakshmikantha Rao Pantulu, an officer of great experience and integrity and intimately connected with the settlement of Tanjore.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

24 [XX] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., dated 7th September 1893, No. 1960 L., recording report on Sri Tiagarayaswami Kovil Kumbhabishekam festival at Tiruvalur, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district, whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a communication published at page 5 of the *Hindu* newspaper of the 10th July 1893 and another communication published at page 4 of the same newspaper in its issue of the 21st October 1893, and whether, in view of the absence of all reference to a fire accident in the report of the President of the Taluk Board, the Government will be pleased to call for a full report on the circumstances mentioned in the communications above referred to, and place the same, with any orders that the Government may pass thereon, at the disposal of the press ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the statements on the subject in the *Hindu* newspaper. A report on the subject from the District Magistrate of Tanjore was received in July and disposed of in August last and will be shown to the Hon'ble Member if he will apply to the Secretary. No further report seems needed.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

25 [XXI] *Question.*—Whether the Municipal Council of the town of Tanjore, in the Tanjore district, was deprived of the power of electing its Chairman seven years ago on the *sole* ground of the absence of the quorum required by the then existing rules at the meetings held for filling up a vacancy in the office of Chairman ? Whether the Council has, by a nearly unanimous vote, been demanding repeatedly the restoration of the privilege ? and whether the Government has refused to comply with its demand ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Tanjore Municipality was deprived of its elective privileges in consequence of continued neglect, notwithstanding distinct warnings from the Collector, to hold the meeting with a quorum sufficient to allow of the election of a Chairman. The Government has from time to time received applications for the restoration of the privilege, which have in each instance been carefully considered and rejected.

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4. MEETING OF THE 12TH DECEMBER 1893.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

26 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of additional expenditure which is likely to be incurred every year in the Presidency of Madras in consequence of the exchange compensation allowance ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The additional expenditure in question is estimated at the following sums for the current and next official years :—

	Rs.
1893-94	4,35,000
1894-95	3,13,000

It is impossible to give an estimate for subsequent years, as the amount of the exchange compensation allowance varies with the rate of exchange, which it is hoped will improve.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

27 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) To what districts or parts of districts in the Presidency of Madras have clauses (2) to (8) of section 9 of the Madras Village Courts Act (I of 1889) providing for the constitution and procedure of village benches been extended by the Governor in Council ?

(*b*) Have the Collectors or Divisional officers of any districts prepared lists of persons eligible to sit on such benches ?

(*c*) Have clauses (2) to (8) of the said section been actually worked in any districts, and with what results ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Clauses (2) to (8) of section 9 of Act I of 1889 have been extended to certain villages in the following districts :—

Coimbatore.	Vizagapatam.
Chingleput.	Nellore.
Anantapur.	Bellary.

In no case have the said clauses been extended to the whole district.

(*b*) Government has no information that any lists of persons have been prepared, but it is to be assumed that they have been prepared as required by law for those villages to which section 9 has been applied.

(*c*) No report has yet been received showing with what results clauses (2) to (8) of the said section have been actually worked or whether they have been actually worked at all anywhere. A report on the subject has been called for from the Collectors of those districts in which section 9 has been in operation for more than a year.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

28 [III] *Question* —Will the Government be pleased to lay before the Council a return of all cases where the proved right of villagers for grazing cattle in the village commons have been recorded since the introduction of the Forest Act, and also the despatch of the Government of India in 1887 on the subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Galton :—

Answer—The reply to the Hon'ble Member's question is as follows :—

Forest Settlement officers have generally held that the privilege of grazing on waste common lands is terminable at the will of Government and have refused to recognize any claim of *right* put forward by the villagers to grazing on such areas ; consequently, they have not recorded any such

rights. Where the privilege of grazing can be permitted to continue after reservation of any forest without detriment to the conservancy of the tract reserved, such grazing is allowed by departmental order on payment of the regulated fees. It would be impossible to say, without searching the records of all the Forest Settlements which have been carried out since the introduction of the Forest Act, whether in any exceptional cases the rights of the villagers to grazing in common lands have been admitted and recorded, but the general tenor of the decisions in such cases has been that the communal privilege of grazing on the common lands of the village is merely a customary privilege—not a prescriptive right.

The question does not indicate with sufficient precision what despatch of the Government of India in 1887 is referred to, but possibly the review of the Forest Administration Report of this Presidency for 1885–86 is meant, as paragraphs 8 and 13 thereof contain observations on the exercise of grazing privileges within the limits of reserved forests.

Copy of this resolution will be laid on the table for the information of Hon'ble Members.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

29 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the circumstances which led to the publication of the Marina notification in October last?

(*b*) whether Rule II of the said notification is intended to apply to covered bullock-carts for the conveyance of passengers or is it confined to uncovered country carts?

(*c*) whether the word *Marina* in Rule I in the said notification includes (1) the foreshore to the east of the walk so as to prevent fishermen, Indian children and others from using the same in their usual costume, and (2) the main road between the promenade and the ride so as to prevent jutka-drivers, pedestrians and others from using it in their ordinary costume?

(*d*) whether the Government is not aware that the South Beach road is the only convenient road available for passengers going from the Harbour, the High Court and the Fort to St. Thomé and that any other route is considerably circuitous and inconvenient?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) For many years past constant complaints have been made privately to the Members of Government and the Commissioner of Police, not only by residents of Madras but also by visitors from other countries, of the want of decency and of control over the traffic which could be observed during afternoons on the Marina—the place of public resort of all classes of the community. No action, however, was taken in the matter until a letter appeared on the subject in the *Madras Mail* of the 5th September, when it was considered advisable to take measures to put a stop to what was evidently becoming an intolerable public nuisance.

(*b*) The wording of this rule is perhaps unnecessarily wide. It will be amended so as not to apply to covered bullock-carts used solely for the conveyance of passengers.

(*c*) The word "Marina" in the notification in question is not intended to include the sands to the east of the hedge which runs between the sands and the promenade, nor the main road between the promenade and the ride.

(*d*) The notification, as it will be amended as above stated, does not appear to the Government to affect the passengers alluded to in any way.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

30 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the promotion of non-commissioned officers in the Medical department of this Presidency is dependent on their passing an examination once in every seven years in subjects in which they have undergone examination before obtaining their degrees or certificates?

(*b*) Was a similar rule in force in regard to commissioned officers repealed about 1883, and, if so, why?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In the royal warrant of 1873 it was laid down that Surgeons would be required to pass an examination before promotion to Surgeon-Major. This provision was omitted from the warrant of 1881 on the representation of the Government of India, but what this representation was is not within the knowledge of this Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

31 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware of the provision in section 15 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act XV of 1882 that any Judge of such Court shall not be concerned in any profession, and that any such Judge so concerned shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 168 of the Indian Penal Code?

(*b*) Is the continuance of Mr. J. G. Smith, the Acting Third Judge of the Presidency Small Cause Court, a Junior Professor of Law in the Madras Law College, reconcileable with the said provision and has the Government sanctioned such continuance?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is aware of the provision of law referred to by the Hon'ble Member, but, with reference to the Hon'ble Member's second question does not consider that it applies to Mr. Smith, whose retention of his appointment as a Junior Professor of Law in the Madras Law College the Government has sanctioned.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

32 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether in the General Hospital of Madras there is any provision made for the separate accommodation of caste-patients, and whether, if there is no such provision at present, the Government will make early arrangements for the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—There are no separate caste-wards in the General Hospital and it is not the intention of Government to provide any. I may however state that caste-patients are allowed to have their own food brought in from outside and that, when necessary, passes are given to caste-servants to come into the hospital and attend on their masters. In the new buildings, also, on the third storey of the hospital, separate rooms, called Native officers' quarters, are provided for native gentlemen who may desire to be treated as in-patients.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

33 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of appeals from the district of North Arcot disposed of under the Act II of 1883 by the Revenue Board from January to June 1893 and how many of them were disposed of by Mr. William Joseph Henry LeFanu as Acting Member of the Board of Revenue?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—The number of appeals from the district of North Arcot disposed of by the Board of Revenue, during the period referred to in the question, was 56. Of these, Mr. LeFanu, as one of the Land Revenue Commissioners, took part in the disposal of 50, out of which number he disposed alone of 40 appeals against his own decisions as Collector of North Arcot. The Government are much surprised and concerned that this should prove to be the case and will issue orders to have the appeals alluded to heard again.

They are not aware whether the Hon'ble Mr. Kalayanasundaram Aiyar was in possession of this information at the last Council when he moved an amendment to insert a clause into the Revenue Board Bill to prevent Members of the Board from disposing of appeals against decisions passed by themselves as Collectors. If he was, it is to be regretted that he did not say so at the time. Had he done so, the Government would not have opposed his amendment.

The Government will take steps to lay down a rule for the guidance of Members of the Board which will have the effect of preventing any recurrence of such an incident.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

34 [IX] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to call from District Magistrates for a special report on the working of the system of Honorary Magistrates in the Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—In the absence of any reason given for calling for a special report on the working of the system of Honorary Magistrates, the Government does not propose to call for one; but I may mention that the work of the Honorary Magistrates is dealt with periodically in the annual report on the Administration of Criminal Justice prepared by the Hon'ble the Judges of the High Court and is noticed by Government in reviewing that report.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

35 [X] *Question.*—Whether the Government do not think it now advisable considering the growing importance in population and commerce of the town of Adóni, in the Bellary district, to confer on the inhabitants thereof the privilege of electing Municipal Councillors as prayed for by them repeatedly, such privilege being now enjoyed by many towns comparatively of lesser importance?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member appears to be under a misapprehension. The Council has not applied repeatedly but once only, three years ago, for the privilege of election. If it renews the application, the matter will be reconsidered.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

36 [XI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to grant to the District Boards the privilege of electing their Vice-Presidents?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—I will answer this question together with that* on the same subject by the Hon'ble Mr. Subba Rao Pantulu.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

37 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the case that lists of jurors and assessors as prepared now under section 321 of Act X of 1882 include (1) persons who find it difficult by reason of their poverty to be in attendance in Court, and (2) persons who by reason of their defective education and training are unable to intelligently follow the proceedings in Court; and that the said lists do not at the same time contain the names of several suitable men?

(*b*) Are there any rules for the guidance of officers charged with the preparation of the aforesaid lists specifying any property or educational qualifications in regard to persons to be selected as jurors and assessors? If not, will the Government, after such enquiry as it may deem proper, be pleased to suggest to such officers the desirability of their adopting some rules specifying property, educational or other requisite qualifications for the selection of proper persons to serve as jurors and assessors?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The only possible answer to a question framed in such very wide terms as the Hon'ble Member's first question * is "No." I may, however, point out to the Hon'ble Member that in each district, the District Judge and the Collector are the persons charged by law with the preparation of the lists of the jurors and assessors, so that, if in any particular case any such list should be open to the criticism implied by the terms of the Hon'ble Member's question, the proper course would be to bring the facts to the notice of the District Judge or Collector who would be only too happy to be informed of unsuitable persons included in the list and of suitable persons excluded from it.

* Clause (*a*) itself.

(*b*) The law does not confer upon Government the power to make rules regarding the qualifications of jurors and assessors, so the answer to the first part of the Hon'ble Member's second question † is "No." If, as suggested in the last part of the same question, the Government were to request the Judges and Collectors to frame rules regarding the qualifications of jurors and assessors, they would not have a binding force on the officers entrusted with the duty of framing the lists. It seems therefore inadvisable to adopt the Hon'ble Member's suggestion.

† Clause (*b*) itself.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

38 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, since the passing of Act V of 1884, it has authorized "the members of any Local Board to appoint their Vice-President by election"?

(*b*) If not, whether the Government will be pleased to confer this privilege on such select Local Boards as may, after enquiry, be thought deserving of the said privilege?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many District Boards there are non-official Vice-Presidents appointed by the Government?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to increase the number of such non-official Vice-Presidents whenever the Government finds it expedient?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The matter will be fully considered if any Local Board should express the wish to elect its Vice-President.

(*c*) In one.

(*d*) If competent non-officials should be found willing and able to devote the necessary time to the duties of the post, the Government will be very pleased to appoint them.

5. MEETING OF THE 5TH JANUARY 1894.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur BHASHYAM AIYANGAR :—

39 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) What are the appointments specified in the resolution of the Government of India in the Home Department (Medical), No. 17--481-94, dated 31st October 1884, which may be filled by Uncovenanted Medical officers who are Licentiates or Graduates in Medicine and Surgery, under the rules prescribed by the Government of Madras in the notification No. 228, dated 12th May 1885, and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 26th May 1885?

(*b*) Have any permanent appointments of Uncovenanted Medical officers been made under the said rules, and if so, what is the number of such appointments?

(*c*) How many Licentiates or Graduates in Medicine and Surgery of Indian Universities are employed in the Civil Medical Department of this Presidency and what are the classes of posts held by them?

(*d*) Has there been any despatch from the Secretary of State or any resolution from the Government of India since the date of the said notification in regard to the prospects of Uncovenanted Medical officers, and if so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same before the Council?

(*e*) Is there any, and if so what, objection to the appointment of Uncovenanted Medical officers to one of the three posts of Physicians and to one of the three posts of Surgeons attached to the General Hospital at Madras, and if there is none, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making such appointments?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—With regard to the first question * I will not put the Hon'ble Member to the trouble of reading it. I regret that the Government was not able to obtain the information which he calls for in the first question which he has put. If the Hon'ble Member will kindly give notice of it for the next meeting †, we shall then be in a position to give the information.

* Question 39 itself.

† 50 *infra*, p. 21.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur BHASHYAM AIYANGAR :—

40 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Has any despatch from the Secretary of State or any resolution of the Government of India been received in reference to the recommendation made by the Public Service Commission in December 1887 about recruitment in part for the grade of Assistant District Superintendents of Police by limited competition amongst candidates selected in India, and if so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same before the Council?

(*b*) What is the present system of recruitment for the grade of Assistant District Superintendent of Police in this Presidency?

(*c*) Whether of the 17 appointments mentioned by the Public Service Commission in paragraph 116 of their report as being, at the time of their report, held by natives out of a total of 375 appointments in the superior grades of the Police force in the Provinces to which their enquiry extended, any were held by natives in this Presidency and whether any natives have since been appointed in this Presidency to any such grades?

(*d*) Whether the Government has any intention of adopting the system of partial recruitment in India for the grade of Assistant District Superintendent of Police in this Presidency by limited competition amongst selected candidates, or otherwise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The whole subject of recruitment for the upper grades of the Police Department has been and is still under discussion, and the Government cannot at present lay any papers before the Council or give any information in regard to the matter.

(*b*) Except that a certain number of officers have been obtained by competitive examinations in England, the method of recruitment to be followed in future is still under discussion.

(*c*) The answer to both parts of this question is "No".

(*d*) This question has been answered under (*a*).

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

41 [III] *Question.*—Whether under the existing rules of service there is any objection to the promotion of select Inspectors of Police to the grade of Assistant Superintendent, and if not, whether it is the intention of Government to give Inspectors of proved ability and character at least a trial in the higher ranks of the service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—I regret that I cannot give the Hon'ble Member any other answer than that which I have already given to the Hon'ble Mr. Bhashyam Aiyangar's question lettered (*a*) *.

* 40 (*a*) *supra*, p. 16.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

42 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the cost incurred during the last five years on account of the Government's trip to Ootacamund, and also to what fund this item of expenditure is debited?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(i) The cost incurred by the move of Government to and from the hills during the years 1889-1892 was as follows :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
1889	36,286	2	9
1890	36,162	1	7
1891	38,135	10	8
1892	26,820	1	1

The figures for 1893 are not yet available, but, judging from the expenditure incurred in the Chief Secretariat, the amount will be, approximately, about Rs. 35,000.

(ii) The item is a Provincial charge, and the expenditure is taken to the heads 18. *General Administration* and 45. *Civil Works—Public Works Department.* Some trifling amounts are also booked against 24. *Medical.*

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

43 [V] *Question.*—Has the local Government promised any support to the Pasteur Institute which seems to be about to be established in the north of India? Is the Government aware that a printed letter condemning M. Pasteur's treatment for preventing deaths from the bites of dogs and other animals alleged to be rabid has been circulated by a society called "The Victoria Street Society for the Protection of Animals from Vivisection?" Can the Government give any information showing the value of the treatment in question?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Government is not in a position to answer the third † question. It will be left on the paper and answered at the next meeting.‡

† Question 43 itself.

‡ 51 *infra*, p. 21.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

44 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order the early extension of the provisions contained in clauses (2) to (8) of section 9 of the Village Courts Act to some of the more important districts of the Presidency, such as Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, etc. ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—As stated in my reply to a question * asked by the same Hon'ble Member on the 12th ultimo, reports in regard to the working of clauses (2) to (8) of section 9 of the Village Courts Act have been called for from the Collectors of the districts in which they have been in operation for a year. When these reports have reached the Government, the advisability of extending the provisions in question to other districts will be considered.

* 27 *supra*, p. 11.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

45 [VII] *Question.*—Whether in addition to the educational facilities offered to Pariahs in G.O., dated 6th March 1893, No. 493 L., the Government has before it any general scheme for affording special agricultural facilities to them in the whole or any part of the Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—In passing orders on the Pariah question the Government pointed out that lands bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue are at the absolute disposal of Government and are available for allotment to Pariahs. The extent of such lands at the date of the order in the Chingleput district alone was about 1,500 acres. The Collector of that district was instructed to assign them in small plots to such members of the Pariah community as have the capacity to cultivate them with advantage, special care being taken in the selection of the assignees. No general scheme for affording special agricultural facilities to the Pariahs other than that above indicated has been formulated and the Government is awaiting report on the action taken on its order. The Collector of the Kistna district has sent in some proposals, but they merely amount to a suggestion that some 20,000 acres in Gudivada taluk proposed to be brought under irrigation, should be assigned to Pariahs and other low castes. The scheme has not, however, been worked out.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

46 [VIII] *Question.*—Whether in thickly populated districts, such as Tanjore, Government will be pleased to strictly forbid the conversion, in future, of lands reserved for communal purposes into *putta* lands, and to issue orders for appropriating them exclusively to the purposes for which they have been set apart.

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—The Government recognizes the importance of the reservation of communal lands. They believe that their allotment on putta is very rare, but they will refer the matter to the Board of Revenue for report whether, in districts like Tanjore, such allotment should be absolutely forbidden.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

47 [IX] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to give a talukwar statement of the amount sanctioned for, and spent on, the following items in the Tanjore district during the last five years :—

(*a*) the clearance of minor irrigation channels, and

(*b*) other improvements to the same.

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—By the expression "Minor irrigation channels" the Hon'ble Member presumably means what are technically called "distributaries," as distinguished from "Main canals and branches" of the Cauvery delta system. In this delta natural rivers take the place of main canals. There are 844 miles of main canals and branches and 1,250 miles of distributaries. Outside the delta there are 51 tanks under the Public Works Department and 599 tanks under the Revenue Department, but there are no channels.

For administrative purposes the expenditure on "clearance" is not distinguished in the accounts from other outlay on "Earthworks," neither is it booked by taluks, and such a statement as the Hon'ble Member desires could only be compiled by the Executive Engineers of Tanjore and Negapatam from the records of their offices, and the compilation would be a work of considerable labour, as the figures would have to be picked out from the accounts of a large number of small estimates. The subjoined table gives the outlay on distributaries during the previous five years exclusive of establishment and tools and plant charges :—

	Extensions and improvements.	Maintenance nd repairs.
	Outlay on earthwork.	Outlay on earthwork.
	Rs.	Rs.
1892-93	1,415	16,602
1891-92	5,254	15,896
1890-91	7,309	17,370
1889-90	10,132	17,743
1888-89	6,657	10,884

If the Hon'ble Member still wishes for the more detailed statement referred to in the question, and will let me know whether the meaning which I attach to his use of the term "Minor" is correct, the statement will be prepared, but for the reasons already stated the preparation will take some time.

If the Hon'ble Member will inform me privately of the purpose for which he wants this information, it is quite possible that I may be able to meet his views by a quicker and less troublesome process.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

48 [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any, and if so what, steps have been taken to carry out the orders, issued some considerable time ago, directing the removal of the head-quarters of the Collector of Tanjore from Vallam to Tanjore ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—Plans and estimates for a new office for the Collector at Tanjore have been called for from the Public Works Department. Until these have been sanctioned and the buildings built, the head-quarters cannot be transferred from Vallam. There has been considerable delay in the matter, owing, it is believed, to correspondence between the Board and the Collector and the Government Architect in settling the site and general design of the buildings.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

49 [XI] *Question.*—(1) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the proceedings of a public meeting held at Salem under the presidency of the Rev. F. Foulkes praying for the transfer of the General charge Deputy Collector from Salem, published in the *Madras Mail* of December 16th ?

(2) Whether the Government has received from the Chairman of the said public meeting the memorial adopted thereat which enumerates some very grave irregularities alleged to have been committed by that officer?

(3) Whether it is the intention of Government to take immediate steps to remove that officer from that district and institute independent enquiries regarding the alleged irregularities?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Garstin :—

Answer.—The replies to the first two of the Hon'ble Member's queries are in the affirmative and the reply to the third is in the negative. The Government has no intention of removing the officer alluded to till it is satisfied that his conduct was blameworthy. A full report has been submitted to the Board of Revenue by the Acting Collector on the subject and will be shortly disposed of by Government in dealing with the Board's Proceedings thereon.

6. MEETING OF THE 7TH MARCH 1894.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur BHASHYAM AIYANGAR :—

***50** [I] *Question.*—(*a*) What are the appointments specified in the resolution of the Government of India in the Home Department (Medical), No. 17—481-94, dated 31st October 1884, which may be filled by Uncovenanted Medical officers who are licentiates or graduates in Medicine and Surgery, under the rules prescribed by the Government of Madras in the Notification No. 228, dated 12th May 1885, and published in the *Fort. St. George Gazette* of the 26th May 1885? * Same as 39 *supra*, p. 16.

(*b*) Have any permanent appointments of Uncovenanted Medical officers been made under the said rules, and if so, what is the number of such appointments?

(*c*) How many licentiates or graduates in Medicine and Surgery of Indian Universities are employed in the Civil Medical Department of this Presidency, and what are the classes of posts held by them?

(*d*) Has there been any despatch from the Secretary of State or any resolution from the Government of India since the date of the said notification in regard to the prospects of Uncovenanted Medical officers, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same before the Council?

(*e*) Is there any, and if so what, objection to the appointment of Uncovenanted Medical officers to one of the three posts of Physicians and to one of the three posts of Surgeons attached to the General Hospital at Madras, and, if there is none, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making such appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The resolution quoted specifies appointments in the Bengal Presidency only. The appointments in this Presidency, which may, in the absence of Commissioned Medical officers, be held by Uncovenanted Medical officers, are the Civil Surgeoncies of Chingleput, Cochin, Tellicherry, Negapatam, Chatrapur and Guntúr.

(*b*) Yes: two—one at Negapatam and one at Chatrapur. An acting appointment has also been made at Guntúr.

(*c*) Four graduates and 34 licentiates in Medicine and Surgery of the Madras University are at present employed in the Civil Department. Of these, 20 are Assistant Surgeons and 18 are Civil Apothecaries.

(*d*) No further despatch on the subject has been received from the Secretary of State, nor has any general resolution of the Government of India been issued. The only general orders received from the Government of India regarding the class of Assistant Surgeons and Hospital Assistants have been in respect to the reserves to be maintained of officers of these classes and to their position and emoluments if temporarily employed on military duty. Copies of these orders will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member if he wishes to have them.

(*e*) The appointments attached to the General Hospital are reserved for commissioned officers under the orders of the Government of India. Uncovenanted Medical officers are not considered to have received a professional education sufficiently good or to be of sufficient professional standing to qualify them for any of the appointments in question with their attached professorial duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

†51 [II] *Question.*—Has the Local Government promised any support to the Pasteur Institute which seems to be about to be established in the north of India? Is the Government aware that a printed letter condemning M. Pasteur's treatment for preventing deaths from the bites of dogs and other animals alleged to be rabid has been circulated by a Society called "The Victoria Street Society for the Protection of Animals from Vivisection"? Can the Government give any information showing the value of the treatment in question? † Same as 43 *supra*, p. 17.



The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(1) The local Government has informed the Government of India that it will be prepared to contribute towards the cost and upkeep of a Pasteur Institute in the Punjab if other local Governments do so.

(2) Yes ; a copy of it was received two months after the despatch to the Government of India of the communication referred to above.

(3) This is a purely scientific question on which the Government is not in possession of any information beyond that which is available to the general public.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

52 [III] *Question.*—Whether any report has been submitted to the Revenue Board or the Government by Mr. Castlestuart Stuart or Mr. Moberly for the settlement of the Palghat taluk, and, if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place the same at the disposal of the Press, with the Proceedings, if any, of the Board of Revenue or Government thereon ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—A scheme for the settlement of the Palghat taluk was submitted by Mr. Castlestuart Stuart and was received by the Board and Government, but the order could not be made public at once, because reference had to be made to the Government of India on certain points connected with the scheme. The reply of the Government of India has only recently been received and orders have been issued to place on the Editors' Table G.Os., dated 23rd October 1893, No. 931, containing the review of Mr. Stuart's scheme, and 22nd January 1894, No. 51, containing the reply of the Government of India to the reference made ; also the letter from this Government to the Government of India, dated 29th November 1893, No. 1036.

A copy of these papers will also be sent to the Kerala Mahajana Sabha.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

53 [IV] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to inform the Council what the increase of assessment will be in the Palghat taluk, after the survey and settlement,

on dry lands, on garden,	on wet,

and whether the total increase will be below 100 per cent. (*a*) in accordance with the scheme submitted by Mr. Stuart, (*b*) in accordance with the scheme submitted by Mr. Moberly ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Question 53 itself.

Answer.—The answer to the second question * is, that Mr. Stuart's scheme for the settlement of Palghat taluk was rejected by Government and that no scheme has as yet been submitted by Mr. Moberly. A revised scheme has been called for, and until the Government has been furnished with a scheme which it can accept and passes final orders thereon, it is impossible to say what the increase of assessment will be.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

54 [V] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to place at the disposal of the Press the report of the Committee appointed in or about 1889 to report on the revision of the assessments in Malabar and the Proceedings of Government thereon ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The papers referred to will be re-printed and placed at the disposal of the Press.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

55 [VI] *Question.*—Whether an opportunity will be afforded to those interested to state their objections, if any, to any scheme for revision of assessment in Malabar or any part of Malabar that may be suggested by the local authorities or the Board of Revenue before any final proceedings are passed thereon by Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to this question is in the affirmative, and the Kerala Mahajana Sabha was informed in 1891, that such opportunity would be afforded. His Excellency the Governor moreover in his reply to the address presented to him by the same association on the occasion of his visit to Malabar in October last said : "We shall make a point in all our proceedings as we go on, of fully taking you into our confidence and giving you an opportunity of expressing your views, so that we may be in a position to know, not only what you think, but also what are all the facts of the case."

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

56 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the "regular rules for the distribution of water" referred to in the answer * given by Government at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November 1893, and to state whether the said rules were ever published in the District or Fort St. George Gazette ?

* 13 *ante* p. 6.

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—The rules and practice are so complicated and vary so much in different districts that it is impossible to bring even an abstract of them within the limits of an answer to a question. They are being compiled, and when the compilation is completed, will be printed and laid on the table. The printed list will state in each case to what extent, if at all, the rules have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* or District Gazettes.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

57 [VIII] *Question.*—In view of the important bearing of chemistry on agriculture and other industries, will the Government be pleased to take the necessary steps to utilise the improved and newly extended Chemical Laboratory of the Presidency College as well as the Laboratory of the College of Agriculture, for the conduct of agricultural analysis and other original scientific work and for the training of Indian experts in agriculture ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Monro :—

Answer.—As yet no persons have applied for the use of the laboratories of the Presidency or Agricultural Colleges for the conduct of independent agricultural analysis or other original scientific work or with a view to their becoming experts in agriculture ; but every facility would be afforded to any person who wished to make use of the laboratories of these institutions for the above purposes.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

58 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to give effect to its resolution of 1890 that agricultural farms should be opened at different centres in the Presidency and whether the Government will be pleased to open a farm in the Northern Circars ?

(*d*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a long communication published in the *Southern Star*, of the 17th February 1894, over the signature of G. Narasimhachariyar, mirasidar, pointing out many irregularities and illegalities on the part of Mr. Krishnamurti Aiyangar, Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, in the matter of hearing objections of individual mirasidars against the new rates of settlement? If so, will the Government be pleased to call for an immediate report on the subject and to remedy the grievances complained of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer to the first two questions is that the Government is aware that complaints have been made of the manner in which petitions presented to the Settlement officers in Tanjore have been disposed of and has already called for a report on the subject. On receipt of the report, steps will be taken to remedy any grievances which may be shown to be well-founded.

(*c*) The Government has no information regarding the irregularities alleged to exist; but enquiry will be made and steps taken to see that the orders of Government in the settlement scheme are duly carried out.

(*d*) The communication referred to was recently brought to the notice of Government and report regarding the allegations made therein has already been called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

64 [XV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Mr. Gabriel Stokes, District Magistrate of Salem, some time ago (1) took a statement from one Sambayan, a prisoner in the Salem Jail under sentence of death for the murder of a boy, regarding the circumstances of that boy's death, and (2) proposed to use the said statement after Sambayan had been hanged as a dying declaration of the said Sambayan against those whom Sambayan had implicated therein?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—It is the case that on the 18th March 1890 Mr. Stokes, the District Magistrate of Salem, took a statement from one Sambayan, a prisoner under sentence of death in the Central Jail at Salem, regarding the circumstances attending the murder of a certain boy. The Government called for a report on the subject and came to the conclusion that the District Magistrate's action was in no respect open to censure. Mr. W. A. Symonds was at the time Superintendent of the Salem Central Jail and was called on for an explanation of his conduct in regard to the same case. In the course of his explanation, Mr. Symonds stated that the District Magistrate had expressed an opinion that Sambayan's statement might, after his execution, be used as a dying declaration against persons whom he had implicated. The Government of the day did not apparently attach any importance to Mr. Symonds' statement, for nothing was done thereon.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

65 [XVI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that in or about October last Mr. Robert Sewell, District Magistrate of Bellary, proposed to issue a search warrant for the examination of the person of a Eurasian lady, whose husband, an Englishman, was criminally prosecuting another Englishman for alleged adultery with her, on the plea that the power of search for stolen goods extended by analogy to the examination of a female witness' person? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what notice it has taken of the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject and does not propose to call for any.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

66 [XVII] *Question.*—Is it true that, in consequence of the death of a convict from gangrene of the buttocks caused by flogging administered to him in the Salem Jail for breach of jail discipline, special precautions are now taken whenever prisoners are flogged for such breaches? If so, will the Government take steps to secure by legislation the provision of similar precautions in the case of convicts flogged in execution of sentences passed by Courts of law?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—It is not quite certain that in the case referred to the whipping was the *immediate* cause of death. The facts are that one Gópálagádu was flogged in the Central Jail, Salem, for a certain jail offence on the 16th May 1892; that he was sent to the jail hospital after the flogging; that he was transferred thence on the 26th May to the Penitentiary under a medical certificate that he was fit to travel; and that the journey set up inflammation, which resulted in the gangrene from which he died on the 31st May. In consequence of this occurrence the Government directed that no prisoner should be transferred from a jail hospital to any other jail except for the benefit of his health, and this ruling has been incorporated in the Jail Code. A Medical officer is invariably present when a flogging is administered in a jail, whether it is inflicted under the sentence of a Court or for a jail offence, and if the state of the prisoner seems to the Medical officer to demand such a precaution, he is placed in the jail hospital and, as remarked above, he cannot be transferred thence to any other jail until he has been discharged cured. If the Medical officer who attends at the flogging of a prisoner considers that it is unnecessary to remove him to hospital thereafter, he is not placed in hospital. In all cases the provisions of the Jail Code Rule 532 apply, whereby no prisoner is ever transferred unless the Medical officer of the jail certifies that he is in a fit state of health to travel. If a sentence of whipping imposed by a Court is carried out otherwise than in a jail, section 394 of the Code of Criminal Procedure applies, and the officer present is bound to satisfy himself that the offender is in a fit state of health to undergo the punishment. Under these circumstances the Government considers that further legislation is altogether uncalled for.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

67 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) What cost has been incurred in this Presidency in the construction of "close prisons"?

(*b*) Were not these close prisons intended for the segregation by day and by night of habitual and hardened offenders for certain well-defined periods of their incarceration?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that, in lieu of these close prisons being put to the use aforesaid, the criminals for whom they were intended have been permitted, in the supposed interests of jail manufacture, to work in association with other convicts? Is the practice still in vogue? If so, where?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*) The cost incurred on the construction of "close prisons" in this Presidency since the year 1875–76 is Rs. 1,57,782.

(*b*) The objects of "close prisons" are explained in the Jail Code Rules 305 and 306, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

(*c*) The Government will enquire of the Inspector-General of Jails whether criminals who should have been placed in "close prisons" have been permitted to work in association with other convicts.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

68 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, contrary to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, which accord to all prisoners the right of memorializing the Government for the exercise of its prerogative of mercy, the Jail Department of this Presidency illegally limited that right, except in rare instances, to prisoners under sentence of death? For how long was this restriction permitted to prevail? Has it been entirely removed? And, if so, since when?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, in spite of the Jail Code, which expressly enjoins that, in the case of a prisoner under sentence of death, the petition invoking the prerogative of mercy should be submitted in original and be accompanied by an English translation, a contrary practice has prevailed in some jails and a translation alone, signed by the prisoner (in almost every case ignorant of English) and countersigned by the Superintendent, has been forwarded to Government as though it were the original petition? If so, for how long has this practice been permitted to continue?

(*c*) Is it true that Colonel Porteous, then Inspector-General of Jails, took no notice of the above-mentioned irregularities when his attention was drawn to them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) In the Jail Code of 1883 as in that of 1893, Superintendents are required to forward all first petitions to Government. In his report dated 20th May 1891, however, Mr. Cardew brought to notice that the rule had been neglected to a great extent and that the right to petition Government was practically non-existent except in the case of prisoners under sentence of death and possibly of transportation for life. This fact he attributed to a great extent to a rule which required the submission along with each petition to Government of the judgment of the Court containing the facts of the case. The judgment of the Court of Original Jurisdiction alone in most cases contains a full statement of the facts. Section 371 of the Criminal Procedure Code requires the Court to furnish one and only one copy of the judgment to the accused free of cost, and as this copy would be retained by the Appellate Court, the prisoner, if too poor to pay for another copy of the judgment of the Court of original jurisdiction, would be unable to comply with the rule requiring the submission of a copy of the judgment containing the facts of the case along with his petition to Government. Upon receipt of Mr. Cardew's report the Government consulted the High Court, and in G.O., dated 6th February 1892, No. 240, Judicial, all Sessions Judges and Magistrates were ordered to furnish, on requisition, to any person convicted of an offence and, except in summons cases, free of cost, a second copy of the judgment in the case. There is no reason to suppose that any impediments now exist to the free exercise of the right of petitioning Government. On the contrary such petitions are very numerous. I may mention that I recently received thirty of these petitions in the course of two days.

(*b*) The rules in the Jail Code of 1883 were not sufficiently clear on the subject of submitting vernacular petitions for mercy, and the practice referred to in the questions did prevail in some jails. The provisions of the Jail Code of 1893 are distinct. The vernacular petition written, adopted or dictated by the prisoner, must itself be forwarded to Government. Occasionally, however, the rule is still infringed and an English translation of the prsioner's statement is alone forwarded. Fresh orders will be issued on the subject to all Superintendents of Jails.

(*c*) The Government has no information on this point.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

69 [XX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it approved of the appointment of Mr. Subrahmania Pillai by the Raja of Cochin to the office of Diwan of that State in supersession to that officer's senior, Mr. Sankariah? If so, what were the reasons for such supersession?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Government was informed through the Resident in Travancore and Cochin of the proposal of His Highness the Raja of Cochin to appoint M.R.Ry. Subrahmania Pillai Avargal to the post of Diwan and replied that it had no objection to offer. The selection of a Diwan lies entirely with the Raja and the name of M.R.Ry. Sankariah Avargal was not even mentioned in connection with the appointment.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

70 [XXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any orders have been passed fixing the time for the assumption of the administration of the feudatory State of Pudukkóttai by His Highness the Raja, who has been a major for some time?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The question of whether His Highness the Raja of Pudukkóttai has attained the age usually held to be that of majority has no bearing on the assumption by him of the administration of his State. It is for the Government of India as the paramount power, to determine at what age any feudatory Chief shall be permitted to undertake the duties of Government. It has, with the approval of the Government of India, been decided that the existing system of managing the Pudukkóttai State shall continue in force until November 1894 when the Raja will have attained 19 years of age.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

71 [XXII] *Question.*—(1) Is the Government aware that in register case 6 of 1893, the Joint Magistrate of Kumbakónam stated, in answer to an application for bail, that he was in an awkward position, as, in addition to being the committing Magistrate, he had the instructions of the Government to prosecute as well?

(2) Will the Government lay on the Council table a copy of the instructions conveyed to the said Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no information of the statement said to have been made by the Joint Magistrate of Kumbakónam and is not aware what instructions are alluded to. So far as can be ascertained by an examination of the records no report of the case was made to Government until after it had been committed, when the District Magistrate asked that the Government Pleader might be sent to conduct the prosecution before the Sessions Court. I may add that a telegram has just been received from the District Magistrate stating that the insinuation conveyed in the Hon'ble Member's question appears to be altogether without foundation.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

72 [XXIII] *Question.*—(1) What is the total amount that has been spent till now on grant of loans under the special well rules of Land Improvement Loans Act districtwar for the last three years 1891-92, 1892-93 and 1893-94?

(2) How many wells have been brought into existence by these loans, and what money advanced by Government has been spent on these wells?

(3) What steps has the Government taken to recover such portions of the loans as were not spent on the sinking of the wells?

(4) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report of Mr. Castlestuart Stuart, who pointed out that in some cases these loans have been granted irrespective of the consideration whether a well could be had in the place and for the amount specified by the ryot applying for the loan, and what notice has Government taken of that report?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—No steps have as yet been taken to give effect to the Resolution of 1890 referred to by the Honourble Member, because, under instructions from the Government of India, the scheme was held in abeyance, pending the consideration of Dr. Voelcker's report. This report was discussed by a conference held at Simla in October last, but the orders of the Government of India on the recommendations of the conference have not yet been communicated to this Government. Gódávari was one of the districts approved by Government for the location of an agricultural school and farm, but until the details of the scheme are finally settled, it is not possible to give a definite reply to the latter part of the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

59 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there any special reason why "the position of Chemical Examiner" to Government has been assigned to an officer of the Indian Medical Service" ?

(*b*) Does the Government agree with Dr. Voelcker in thinking that for the post of Chemical Examiner "men who have been carefully trained in Chemistry and more especially in Analytical Chemistry" are more especially needed than medical men "who have had nothing more than the class instruction in Chemistry and the test-tube experience of the ordinary medical student" ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes ; it is one of the appointments which the Government of India has ruled are to be "reserved absolutely for members of the Covenanted Medical Service."

(*b*) The Government quite agrees with Dr. Voelcker, but observes that his remarks do not apply to this Presidency, where, for many years past, care has been taken to appoint to the office of Chemical Examiner only officers of suitable professional qualifications.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

60 [XI] *Question.*—Whether, in view of the fact that the papers relating to the Tiruválúr fire accident which the Government has been pleased to send do not throw light on the question as to how the fireworks came to be let off long before the time fixed for the procession of the idol and when the feeding of Brahmans was still going on in the sheds of leaves erected inside the temple, the Government will be pleased to call for and place on the Council table a specific report on the statements in Sivalinga Pillai's petition to Government, dated 10th July 1893, in the following terms :—

"It was customary to celebrate the procession festival on this night by bringing the idol outside the temple to all the four streets surrounding it and *after this occasion* to play fireworks ; and

"Mr. Todhunter wished the fireworks should be played immediately as the ladies were anxious to get away soon to Negapatam and could not wait for the procession" ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government will call for a specific report upon the statements quoted.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

61 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) What was the cost incurred in the construction and the furnishing of the Government House and Public offices on the Hills ?

(*b*) Whether a house was recently purchased from public funds for the Commander-in-Chief, and, if so, at what cost ?

(*c*) What is the amount spent annually on repairs and establishments connected with the maintenance of the above buildings ?

(*d*) Does the sum of Rs. 36,000, which the Government has stated * to be the annual cost of its trip to the Hills, include all cost incurred, not only on account of the members of Government, but also in the transit of all establishment, the extra allowances granted to the officials going to the Hills and the amount spent under (*c*) above ? *4

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The actual expenditure up to the end of 1893 on the construction and furnishing of Government House at Ootacamund and the buildings connected therewith was Rs. 7,60,481 and on the Government offices at Stonehouse Rs. 82,316. The original cost of the Mountstuart property now used as offices for Army Head-quarters was Rs. 85,000 and Rs. 21,375 has been expended in improvements and additions. The Government of India pays rent at the rate of Rs. 306 per *mensem for* these buildings.

(*b*) No house has been purchased from public funds for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(*c*) The average annual expenditure on repairs during the last five years has been Rs. 7,112 per annum ; no special establishment is provided for the supervision of these works which are managed by the ordinary Public Works staff of the district. The average cost of this establishment, including a proportionate share of the cost of direction and accounts, is about 23 per cent. of the expenditure on works.

(*d*) The amounts previously† given as the annual cost of the move of Government † to the Hills include all charges incurred on account of the members of Council and also on the transit of all establishments and the extra allowances granted to officials. They do not include the amount spent under head (*c*).

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

62 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Government before it any scheme for supplying the town of Coimbatore with good water ?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to issue orders for the carrying out of one ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The answer to the Honourble Member's first question is "Yes." The second therefore needs no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

63 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government is aware that many mirasidars of Tanjore complain that the time given to them by the Settlement officers for objecting to the new rates of settlement is too short, that their petitions objecting to the said rates are not received at the time of enquiry, and that they are directed to send such petitions by post ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether these complaints are well-founded, and, if they are, to apply such remedies as it deems fit in the circumstances ?

(*c*) Is it true that the Settlement officers do not attend to objections based on defective irrigation and that they raise the commutation price to one rupee eight annas and more to justify the rates fixed by them. If so, will the Government be pleased to direct that its final orders on the Tanjore Settlement scheme be strictly adhered to ?

(5) Whether the whole well-sinking operations could not be simplified by the bringing into use of American boring machines which would sink a well in a few hours and not also cost much at the outside.

The Hon'ble Mr. Galton :—

Answer.—(1) A statement showing the advances made under the special well rules district by district from 1st April 1891 to January 1894 will be laid on the table for the information of the Hon'ble Member. It shows the advances made during the official year 1891-92, the three months April to June 1892, the fasli year 1302, and the first seven months of the current fasli 1303. Figures for official years 1892-93, 1893-94 are not available as, under instructions from the Government of India, accounts have to be maintained for the fasli year. It will be seen from this statement that during the period in question more than Rs. 23½ lakhs were advanced for sinking and repairing wells under the special well rules above. Besides this, large sums (aggregating over 12 lakhs of rupees) have been advanced under the ordinary rules for the same purpose.

(2) Statement No. 2 shows the number of wells constructed or repaired from advances granted both under the special well rules and under the ordinary rules from 1st April 1891 to the end of June 1893. Information regarding the number of wells constructed or repaired out of advances granted under the special well rules alone is not separately available. It will be observed that during the period referred to, 7,052 wells were newly constructed and 7,367 existing wells were repaired. The monthly returns received subsequent to June 1893 are not quite complete ; but, so far as they go, they show that 5,940 more wells have been constructed or repaired and that 9,969 more were in course of construction or repair.

As regards the question what money advanced by Government has been spent on these wells, it will be observed from the rules prescribed in Board's Standing Order No. 112 that due precautions are taken to ensure that the loans granted are properly expended on the objects for which they are intended. Sufficient security is taken and the loans are generally given in instalments. Under rule 16 of the special well rules, the second instalment is not paid until the work done for the first instalment has been inspected and valued, and, under rule 17, the whole work on completion is measured up and estimated in accordance with a schedule of rates prescribed for each taluk or tract. If the value of the work done is within 10 per cent. of the amount originally applied for, the work is passed and final loan order issued to the parties. If the value is less than the amount of advance by more than 10 per cent. the applicant is allowed to refund any excess drawn by him and take an order for a reduced loan, or, if it is in excess by more than 10 per cent., he may take an additional loan to the amount of such excess. If default is made in the construction or repair of the well, or if the money is misappropriated, the advance is summarily recovered in pursuance of the security given.

(3) As stated in the reply to the previous question,* the rules provide sufficient safeguards for the prompt and summary recovery of such portions of the loans as are not spent on the objects for which they were granted.

* Clause (2) *supra.*

(4) It is not clear whether the Hon'ble Member refers to the report written by Mr. Castlestuart Stuart when he was Sub-Collector in South Arcot. If this is the report referred to, it is observed that Mr. Castlestuart Stuart's remarks were of a general nature and had reference chiefly to the danger of an unlimited increase in the number of wells without due consideration being given to the geological conditions of each district and the sufficiency of the subterranean water-supply. Mr. Stuart feared that as the supply of underground water in any given locality is generally limited in quantity and is ultimately dependent on the rainfall, the subterranean springs could only supply a limited number of wells, so that all wells sunk in excess of that number will draw their supply at the expense of the wells already existing. The Collector and the Board did not share Mr. Stuart's apprehensions as the number of wells to be sunk will, in so far as they are constructed by means of State loans, be limited by the funds available for allotment and ryots do not generally ask for loans unless they are pretty sure that water is to be found. This has been amply proved by the experience of the past two seasons, 1891 and 1892, when the continued failure of the monsoon in several districts did not appreciably affect the subterranean supply.

(5) The Government is unable to answer this question without specific information as to the character and cost of the machines referred to and their suitability in localities where tube wells have been found to be unsuccessful. It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member does not refer to the boring apparatus used for sinking trial pits previously tried in the Presidency and found to be a failure—*vide* Mr. Nicholson's report printed in G.O., dated 13th July 1886, No. 578, a copy of which will be laid on the table for the information of the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

73 [XXIV] *Question.*—Whether the Government will furnish a statement showing the number of its Anglo-Indian and Eurasian employés in this Presidency who have received exchange compensation allowance without remitting any monies to their families at home and showing also the amount of such allowance drawn by each ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—As the Government of India has ruled that exchange compensation is payable whether any remittance is made to Europe or not, this Government is precluded from enquiring into the private affairs of the officers referred to.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

74 [XXV] *Question.*—Whether, in view to the fact that the Tahsildars and their establishments are worked extremely hard even during hours which are not the usual office time and during holidays, the Government proposes to provide necessary funds in the budget for 1894-95 for the appointment of additional clerks sanctioned by Government in the "Garstin scheme."

The Hon'ble Mr. Galton :—

Answer.—No provision has been made in the budget of 1894-95 for strengthening taluk establishments owing to want of funds. The attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to the reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin to the question * put on the same subject by the Hon'ble Mr. Ramasubbaiyar at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November 1893.

* 18 *supra* p. 8.

31st July 1893, No. 697, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Settlement officers have transferred from the second to the third group of irrigation any villages in the Máyavaram and Shiyali taluks? If not, will the Government be pleased to direct that full effect be given to its orders?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government has no information as to the number of villages in the Máyavaram and Shiyali taluks transferred from the second to the third class, but it has reason to believe that its orders regarding the lowering of the classification of irrigation sources have been given effect to wherever this has been considered necessary. At a conference held in October and November 1893 by the three Deputy Commissioners who are now engaged in introducing the new rates into Tanjore, it was decided to transfer about 27,000 acres under drainage sources which had been placed in the first and second classes in the several delta taluks to the second and third classes respectively, resulting in a reduction in the assessment of about Rs. 27,000. The reduction then estimated for the Máyavaram and Shiyali taluks was about Rs. 4,800 and Rs. 3,000 respectively. The Government sees no necessity for issuing any fresh orders on the subject. In the Máyavaram and Shiyali taluks, the increase in the wet assessment, which was estimated in the Board's proposals at Rs. 1,76,858 and Rs. 66,432, has been reduced to about Rs. 1,40,200 and Rs. 64,200 respectively. When appeals are fully disposed of, there may be some further reductions.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

84 [X] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that the classification of soils made by the subordinate officers of the Settlement Department and approved by the Deputy Commissioners before the final proposals for the settlement of the Tanjore district were submitted to the Board of Revenue has, since the order of Government, been *raised* in many cases to the disadvantage of the mirasidars?; what was the necessity for adopting this procedure in the face of the fact that the Government has ordered that the originally proposed increase of 14½ lakhs of rupees based on the first classification should be reduced to a maximum of 11 lakhs; and will the Government be pleased to order that the final settlement be made on the original classification?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Only one case has recently come up in appeal to the Board in which some land which was originally classed as 3-2, but which was reduced to 3-3 before the scheme was sent up, was at the time of final examination of the accounts raised again to 3-2. In this case it was reported that the reduction of the classification to 3-3 resulted in a needless reduction of the assessment by 11 per cent. In the Máyavaram taluk, it is understood that the classification of some lands was raised after careful enquiry to avoid unnecessary sacrifice of existing revenue. The amount of increase due to this change was, however, only Rs. 2,165, while the reductions, granted in other cases and in lowering the classification of irrigation sources and on garden lands, have resulted in bringing down the net increase on wet lands from Rupees 1,76,858, as originally estimated by the Board for this taluk, to about Rupees 1,40,200. The Hon'ble Member is probably aware that classification of soils is not final until settlement pattas are issued. The original classification is done by subordinates whose work has to be checked by Head Classifiers and Supervisors, and finally by Assistant and Deputy Commissioners. But the preparation of a general scheme for the settlement of the district cannot and need not be delayed until all this examination by superior officers is completed. The scheme is intended to determine the money rates that should be adopted and is based on the approximate results of the classification made by the Classifiers and checked as far as possible by the Head Classifiers and others in a few typical taluks. The sanction of Government to a settlement scheme merely prescribes the scale of rates to be applied to different soils. These rates cannot be altered, but it is fully within the competence of the Deputy Commissioner to decide before the issue of pattas whether

particular fields have been properly classified or not. In fact it is his duty to satisfy himself, before applying the sanctioned money rates, that the classification of soils has been properly made and to this end he must have full discretion to correct any errors that may be found in the original classification. Very generally this discretion is exercised in giving relief in cases of heavy increases over the old assessment. If in rare instances the classification is raised, it is done after a careful consideration of the circumstances of each case. Even where the land had been previously inspected by the Deputy Commissioner, there is no reason why he should not be allowed discretion to make modifications before the final issue of pattas. It is always open to parties affected by the action of the Deputy Commissioner to appeal to the Board.

The request contained in the concluding sentence of the Hon'ble Member's question is not understood, as, if the final settlement is to be made on the original classification, the reduction of the increase ordered by Government cannot well be carried out. The original classification must be lowered in many cases to carry out a portion at least of the reduction.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

85 [XI] *Question.*—Is it true that the estimated outturn in the case of the lands of many mirasidars of Tanjore has been fixed a great deal higher than is warranted by the accounts furnished by them, and that in so fixing it the Settlement officers have given no consideration to them and made no enquiry whatever as to the genuineness or accuracy thereof, though when the Collector and the Deputy Commissioner heard objections to the general scheme they had stated that the accounts would be duly considered at the time of the final settlement?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The question is too general to admit of a satisfactory reply. The Hon'ble Member will have seen from the orders quoted by him in his question I * that previous to the submission of the settlement scheme, the ryots of the Tanjore district systematically evaded producing either their accounts or lease deeds, though frequently applied to by the Settlement officers. If these documents are produced at the time fixed for hearing of objections or appeals, the Government has no doubt but that the officers responsible will give due consideration to them. In most of the cases which have recently come up before the Deputy Commissioners in which lease deeds have been filed to show that the produce obtained was less than the standard adopted in the settlement scheme, it has been found that the net income in grain derived by the ryots, commuted at the average rate of Rs. 1-0-8 a kalam sanctioned for the district, was considerably more than double the assessment fixed on the land in the new settlement. The Government has no reason to think that on the whole the grain outturns in Tanjore have been fixed higher than they should be.

* 83 *supra*, p. 33.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

86 [XII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct the Settlement Department to furnish to individual mirasidars copies of the irrigation statements and other material papers relating to their respective holdings whenever such copies are applied for?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—No special orders seem to the Government to be necessary. Copies of all accounts, except the classification registers (which are not given until the completion of settlement), are given by Settlement officers if the usual charges are paid, and ryots are also allowed freely to inspect the accounts mentioned at the time of hearing objections. No complaints have reached the Board or Government that Deputy Commissioners have refused to grant copies of the accounts referred to. The final classification adopted in settlement is noted in the pattas issued to the ryots.

7. MEETING OF THE 9TH APRIL 1894.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

75 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the results of the enquiries held, and special reports called for, in the matter of establishing Agricultural Banks in this Presidency ?

(*b*) Will the Government place such reports at the disposal of the press ?

(*c*) Has Mr. Nicholson formulated any scheme or submitted his opinion after his visit to the continent and consideration of the mode of working such institutions on the continent ? If so, what are his views in the matter, and do Government concur in his views ?

(*d*) Has the Government any scheme under consideration relating to the same, and is it likely to be brought into operation at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) No special report has been received as to establishing Agricultural Banks, but Mr. Nicholson was placed on special duty two years ago for the purpose of enquiring into the possibility of introducing a system of such banks.

(*c*) & (*d*) Mr. Nicholson has not submitted his report yet. When he does so, the Government will give the matter careful consideration and his report will doubtless be published in due course.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

76 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Have Government tried the system of paying Government kist through the Post offices in any districts ? If so, in how many districts and villages, and with what results ?

(*b*) Have the Government any idea of extending the system to any other districts at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The system of allowing remittance of Government revenue by postal money order was introduced experimentally in six * districts in the year 1890 and was in force in them for three years, but as the experiment was reported by the Postmaster-General and the Board of Revenue to have proved a failure—a conclusion with which Government concurred—it was ordered to be discontinued. The results of the experiment will appear from the papers printed with G.O., dated 22nd January 1894, No. 53, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

* Chingleput.	Tanjore.
North Arcot.	Madura.
South Arcot.	Tinnevelly.

(*b*) The Government has no present intention of reviving the experiment.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

77, 78 & 79 *Questions.* **77** [III].—Whether it is not true that the Government have in Malabar pledged themselves not to tax pepper, and whether it has not been the practice not to tax pepper or the land that bears it ?

78 [IV].—Whether it is now proposed to tax pepper by imposing a tax on the land bearing it ?

79 [V].—If it is proposed to impose any such tax, will the Government be pleased to place on the table or at the disposal of the press the proceedings or proclamation of 1806, 1827, the Board's Proceedings, No. 1846, dated 16th September 1873, and any other material papers showing the circumstances which led to the promises or pledges referred to above ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

77 **78** **79** *Answer.*—The Government is not at present in a position to answer fully the Hon'ble Member's questions (III, IV and V) and will, therefore, defer replying to them until some further information, which is required, has been obtained.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

80 & 81 *Questions.* **80** [VI].—Have the Government or the public any means of ascertaining whether, in cases of search by Salt and Abkári officers, the provision of law which requires the *presence* of two *respectable* inhabitants of the locality at the search is always complied with ?

81 [VII].—Have any instances of non-compliance with this rule been brought under the notice of Government ? If so, whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure a strict adherence to the rule ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

80 **81** *Answer* —In all cases in which searches are conducted by Salt and Abkári officers they are required by paragraph 19 of the Commissioner's Circular order I of 1891 to secure the presence of two or more respectable inhabitants of the place (including, if possible, the village head) at the search ; and by paragraph 170 of the same Circular order, they are further directed to draw up a list, in a prescribed form, of the property seized, to which the signatures of the witnesses and of the person or persons who may be believed to have committed the offence should be taken. This list (a copy of which, if demanded, is to be granted to the accused person) is forwarded at once with the occurrence report to the Inspector of the circle, and by him to the Magistrate having jurisdiction, if the case is sent for trial. In this way the Circle Inspector and the Magistrate have an opportunity of seeing if these orders are complied with.

No complaints of non-compliance with the above rule have been made either to the Government or to the Board.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

82 [VIII] *Question.*—Is it true that, in cases of discharge, acquittal or alleged inadequacy of punishments in Salt and Abkári cases, Magisterial officers have been called upon by the Collector or Revenue Board to explain or justify their order or decision or instructed to punish offenders under the above Acts more severely ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Board does not call upon Magisterial officers to explain or justify their proceedings ; nor do Collectors, as such, do so. The Board when necessary draws the attention of Collectors to any increase of offences against the Salt and Abkári Laws or to inadequate and non-deterrent punishments inflicted by the Magistracy. The District Magistrates, either upon perusal of calendars or upon information received by them in their capacity as Collectors or from other sources, make enquiry and pass orders upon the proceedings of the subordinate Magistracy. The Board may invite the attention of a District Magistrate to any matter which may appear to require his attention ; but it is open to him to take such action thereon as he may deem fit.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

83 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to paragraph 22 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st November 1892, No. 719, on the subject of the Tanjore Settlement, and to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the final order of Government thereon, dated

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

87 [XIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that at present there are many cases in which District Superintendents of Police are placed in charge of Assistant Superintendents' divisions and that this is the result of there not being a sufficient number of competent officers available for the latter office? If this be a fact, will the Government be pleased to consider the propriety of giving a trial to selected Inspectors of Police in the office of Assistant Superintendent of Police?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—A return received from the Inspector-General of Police shows that on the 4th instant six District Superintendents were in charge of the subdivisions of Assistant Superintendents on account of the paucity of officers. In regard to the latter part of the question, I beg to refer the Hon'ble Member to the answer * I gave him on the 5th January last.

* *Supra*, p. 17.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur RAMASUBBAIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

88 [XIV] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that there are loud complaints that the administration of justice in the Chief Court of Pudukkóttai is seriously hampered by the alleged existence of personal animosity between the Chief Judge on theone hand and the two Puisne Judges on the other? If so, has the Government ordered any enquiry to be made with a view of promptly remedying the existing undesirable state of things?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—I beg to inform the Hon'ble Member that the Government has no information upon the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

89, 90, 91, 92, 93 & 94 *Questions.* **89** [XV].—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in a large number of criminal appeals preferred by convicts in the Central Jail, Salem, to the Head-quarters Deputy Magistrate of Salem between the months of January to July 1893, the results of the appeals were not communicated to the Jail authorities until after the release of the several appellants from jail on the expiration of their respective terms of imprisonment?

90 [XVI].—Whether a statement was submitted by the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Salem, to the Inspector-General of Jails some time in September 1893, complaining of the above omission on the part of the Head-quarters Deputy Magistrate of Salem, and, if so, whether the Government will be pleased to cause such statement to be laid on the table?

91 [XVII].—Will the Government be pleased to cause a tabular statement to be prepared and laid on the table exhibiting in separate columns, in the case of each such appeal, the date of its transmission from the jail, the date of its receipt by the Head-quarters Deputy Magistrate, the date of its filing, the date of its disposal, and the date of communication of its result to the Jail authorities, the remarks column showing which, if any, of the entries corresponding to these appear in the Magisterial diary of the Head-quarters Deputy Magistrate, Salem, as interpolations?

92 [XVIII].—Whether it is a fact that in a number of Jail appeals, the appeals were filed and rejected or filed and confirmed on one and the same day without any previous notice to the appellants?

93 [XIX].—Whether it is a fact that a convict named Sellan, who was sentenced in June 1893 by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Atur to three months' rigorous imprisonment, was released from jail only about the beginning of October 1893, *i.e.*, nearly a month after the date on which he should have been released if he had preferred no appeal to the Head-quarters Deputy Magistrate, Salem, and whether the Government will be pleased to call for an extract from the diary of the said Magistrate showing when and how this appeal was finally disposed of?

94 [XX].—Whether it is a fact that, in the criminal appeals preferred by convicts Nos. 7221, 7231, 7261, 7262, 7265 and 7267, the results whereof the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Salem, complained were not communicated to him, the Head-quarters Deputy Magistrate of Salem, on being called on for an explanation, reported to the District Magistrate that the records of these appeals were not to be found in his office?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

89 **90** **91** **92** **93** **94** *Answer.*—The Government has no information on these matters, but I may state, for the Hon'ble Member's information, that if any persons have any such causes of complaint as are insinuated in the Hon'ble Member's questions, their proper course is to apply to the constituted authorities for redress. I may also refer the Hon'ble Member to the petition rules which he will find published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 14th January 1890.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

95 [XXI] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to direct Superintendents of Jails to submit in future to Government such remarks as may be made from time to time by official and non-official visitors to the jails with respect to convicts, in the disposal of whose appeals such visitors may note any unusual delays long enough, in their opinion, to have caused miscarriage of justice?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Under Jail Code Rules 47 and 49 copies of remarks made by official and non-official visitors are sent by the Superintendent of the Jail to the Inspector-General, who may, if in his opinion it is necessary to do so, forward the same to Government and who is bound to do so if any question of real importance is raised by the visitors. The Government considers these provisions amply sufficient, and is not prepared to adopt the course suggested by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

96 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is true that Mr. R. Sewell, Collector and District Magistrate of Bellary, issued a confidential circular to the subordinate magistracy in the Bellary district to the effect that the Government looks up to them for the detection and suppression of crime and that they should help the Police and that they should not think that their duty was simply to hear evidence and decide cases as the Sessions Court and the High Court do?

(*b*) Whether it is true that the Collector and Magistrate of Coimbatore has issued a circular to all the subordinate magistrates of the district enjoining them that offences of illicit tree-tapping under the Abkári Act should be dealt with more severely and that the fines levied should be more than the value of trees thus illicitly tapped?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on this subject, but if the facts are as stated, the District Magistrate's action was open to no objection. The Hon'ble Member appears to be unaware that the duties of the magistracy extend to the prevention and detection of crime. This is clear from the preamble to the Police Act which states that the Police force is an "instrument at the disposal of the Magistrate for the prevention and detection of crime."

(*b*) The Government has no information on this subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

101 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the complaints referred to by the Public Service Commission "respecting the inequality of pay and rank and the unequal chances of promotion which exist in the case of military men and civilians, respectively, who enter the upper subordinate service (of the Public Works Department) with similar technical qualifications," and whether any action has been taken to remove the said complaints?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table any correspondence that may have passed on the subject between the Government of Madras and the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—(*a*) The terms under which military subordinates are appointed to the Public Works Department are fixed by the Government of India and are beyond the control of the Madras Government.

Under these terms military subordinates have a considerable advantage over others on first joining, as they always join as overseers, 1st grade, while non-military men usually join as overseers, 3rd grade.

As regards subsequent promotion, all are on the same footing.

As regards subsequent salary, the pay of military subordinates is based upon the principle of a staff salary in addition to military pay, and the sum of these two is sometimes greater and sometimes less than the consolidated salary drawn by civil subordinates; in the former case the military subordinate gets the benefit of the difference, in the latter his pay is made up to the amount of the consolidated salary.

Out of 31 military subordinates now in the department, 20 are drawing salaries varying from 50 to 10 per cent. in excess of those of civilians in the same grade.

On the other hand military subordinates are compelled to retire at 55 years of age, while civilians can, if physically fit, remain in the service till 60, and the pensions which can be earned by military men are in most cases considerably less than those which can be earned by civilians in the same departmental grades.

(*b*) The Government does not consider it desirable to lay the correspondence in question on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

*14 *supra*, p. 7.

102 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the answer * of Government at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November last, relating to the notification issued by the Kistna District Magistrate in connection with the recent celebration of Dasara in the town of Masulipatam, that the matter was then under the consideration of Government, will the Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made in the said matter and lay on the table all the papers relating thereto together with the orders of Government thereon, if any?

(*b*) What is the strength of the Special Police enlisted at the instance of the Superintendent of Police in the said matter under Act XXIV of 1859?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether before such enlistment the services of the Reserve Police and the local Volunteer Corps were availed of and enlisted on the occasion, and, if they were not, whether there was any reason why they were not enlisted before it was thought necessary to enlist pleaders, merchants, trustees and servants of religious institutions, and others not so specially qualified?

(*d*) Is it a fact that, after the issue of the notification of the said District Magistrate, the inhabitants of Masulipatam stopped their Dasara festivities and made no attempt whatever to celebrate the same?

(*e*) Was the Special Police continued and kept on duty after the 20th October (the last Dasara day) up to about the 19th November for a total period of nearly six weeks, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which they were so kept on duty?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government received an exhaustive report upon the disturbances at Masulipatam from the Superintendent of Police, Kistna, and several reports from the District Magistrate. The action taken by the local authorities was justified by the circumstances of the case, and the Government has already intimated to the District Magistrate its approval of the course adopted to maintain order. The Government must, however, decline to make public the correspondence which has passed on this subject as it is mostly of a confidential nature.

(*b*) It appears that about eighty Special Police officers were enrolled.

(*c*) The local authorities have complete discretion to select whom they think fit for service as Special Police officers. In this case, the Special Police officers were selected as nearly as possible in equal proportions from the Hindu and Mussalman communities, and respectable persons were chosen for obvious reasons. The District Magistrate has expressed his surprise that the selection of respectable persons should have been treated as a grievance. The Government shares his feeling and considers it a matter for great regret that so much reluctance should have been evinced in certain cases to aid in the maintenance of law and order.

(*d*) The Government understands that the Hindus did practically abstain in certain quarters of the town of Masulipatam from celebrating the Dasara of 1893.

(*e*) Section 16 of the Police Act leaves the time for which Special Police officers shall be retained entirely to the discretion of the Police officer at whose request they were enrolled. The Superintendent seems to have considered it advisable to retain them in the present instance till the 16th or 17th November.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

103 [XXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent for famine relief purposes in this Presidency during the years 1890, 1891 and 1892, and how much of it was spent from the Provincial Fund and how much from the Local Funds? If any amount was spent from the Local Funds, in what districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—A copy of G.O., dated 5th October 1893, No. 983, Financial, which contains full information on this subject, will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

97 [XXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of charges incurred in this Presidency for conducting the jamabandi during the last three years and also the amount of remissions made during those years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—It is not clear what charges are referred to by the Hon'ble Member. If the travelling allowance paid to officers on tour in connection with jamabandi work and the contingent expenditure incurred by them are intended, it would be impossible to furnish the required information without a detailed examination of the accounts of expenditure incurred by Taluk and Divisional Officers during the time that jamabandi was in progress; and even then, the information would not be accurate as a great deal of the work relating to the general administration of the taluk or division is carried on during the progress of the jamabandi and the accounts do not distinguish the expenditure incurred solely for jamabandi purposes from that incurred in the ordinary course of administration.

The season remissions are shown in the annual reports which are duly published.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

98 [XXIV] *Question.*—In view of the fact that the Government has purchased the South Indian Railway Company, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What supervision does the Government exercise over the South Indian Railway as regards its administration?

(*b*) What was the surplus revenue of the Company for the half-years ending June and December 1893?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that some twenty loco-engines, costing over Rs. 5,00,000, have lately been brought out from England and found to be unsuitable for lines and bridges owing to their additional weight?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government control over the South Indian Railway may be divided into two parts, the one relating exclusively to that railway, and the other comprising the powers which Government exercises over it in common with other railways under the Indian Railways Act.

The powers exercised under the first of these heads are detailed in the contract between the Secretary of State for India in Council and the South Indian Railway Company, and those under the second division, in the Indian Railways Act of 1890, copies of which I shall be happy to place at the Hon'ble Member's disposal if he wishes it.

(*b*) In the half-year ending June 1893, the South Indian Railway Company earned, after paying 3 per cent. interest on the Company's capital and working expenses, Rs. 5,55,604; this amount was divided thus—the Company taking Rs. 1,02,778 and Government taking Rs. 4,52,826. In the half-year ending December 1893 the amount earned was Rupees 1,89,041, of which the Company take Rs. 34,670 and the Government Rs. 1,54,371. The share taken by the Company and the Government varies slightly as the Company's amount of capital invested is fixed and the Government capital increases.

The particulars relating to the June half-yearly accounts were placed at the disposal of the public in paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 1398 R., dated 27th November 1893, and those relating to the second half-year will be made public according to custom in due course.

(*c*) Twenty locomotive engines were lately received from England. It was found, when they were weighed after erection here in India, that the weights on some of the axles were greater than the weights allowed for metre-gauge engines under the Government rules which, however, provide for an excess in weight under special circumstances.

The Government Inspector has to give a certificate that the bridges are of sufficient strength for the extra weights and he has directed certain bridges to be strengthened, which work it is anticipated will be completed in six months.

Meantime the engines are available for duty on portions of the line where the bridges do not need alteration and they are also permitted to be used on the portions of the line where the bridges require alteration provided the speed is limited to a walking pace. The cause of and responsibilty for the excess weight of these engines is being enquired into.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

99 [XXV] *Question.*—(1) Will the Government be pleased to publish before final adoption its draft rules for the recruitment of Provincial Service in this Presidency?

(2) Is it the intention of the Government to reserve one of the Under Secretary's posts in the Government Office for a member of the Uncovenanted Service in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Service Commission?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state why it was that the post of the Assistant Secretary to the Government in the Legislative Department, hitherto held by Uncovenanted officers, has been conferred upon a member of the Civil Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(1) The Government is unable to publish before final adoption the rules for the recruitment of the Provincial Service in this Presidency which are being drawn up in communication with the Government of India.

(2) In notification No. 483 of the 16th December 1892, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, one post of Under Secretary to Government (pay Rs. 700) has been included in the appointments to which members of the Madras Provincial Service can properly be appointed subject to the rules for the time being in force under 33 Victoria, cap. 3, section 6.

(3) The post of Assistant Secretary to Government is included in the list of appointments to fill which recruitment is made for the Indian Civil Service and was held by members of that service for several years previous to Mr. Pringle's appointment, which was made, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, on very special grounds. The appointment to act in the room of Mr. Pringle was conferred on a Civilian in view to giving one of the younger Covenanted officers Secretariat training.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

100 [XXVI] *Question.*—Whether the appointment of Stationary Magistrates of the lowest grade and the relieving of Tahsildars of ordinary Magisterial functions has worked satisfactorily; and, if so, whether Government contemplates extending the separations of magisterial from executive functions to the higher grades of the Revenue Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of this question is that the results of the Stationary Sub-Magistrates' scheme for the year 1893—the first complete year during which the scheme has been in operation—will be reviewed in connection with the report on the administration of criminal justice for 1893 which will be published in due course. The Government is not yet in possession of the information which would enable it to answer this question fully.

The answer to the second part of the question is, No.

8. MEETING OF THE 20TH NOVEMBER 1894.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

104 [I] *Question.*—Whether it is not true that the Government have in Malabar pledged themselves not to tax pepper, and whether it has not been the practice not to tax pepper or the land that bears it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government has given an assurance that the old system of levying a tax on the growing pepper vine will not be revived. No tax is now imposed either on pepper or on the lands solely devoted to its cultivation. It was, however, the practice to tax pepper up to 1874-75 and no land bearing pepper has been specifically exempted from assessment on the ground that pepper alone is grown upon it.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

105 [II] *Question.*—Whether it is now proposed to tax pepper by imposing a tax on the land bearing it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Under the new settlement all land taken up for cultivation will be assessed to land revenue whatever crop may be raised on it.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

106 [III] *Question.*—If it is proposed to impose any such tax, will the Government be pleased to place on the table or at the disposal of the press the proceedings or proclamation of 1806, 1827, the Board's Proceedings, No. 1846, dated 16th September 1873, and any other material papers showing the circumstances which led to the promises or pledges referred to above?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The papers specifically referred to in this question will be placed on the Council table. A selection of papers will be made in the Revenue Department and supplied to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

107 [IV] *Question.*—With reference to the opinion expressed in the letter to the Government of Madras from the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 15th May 1883, No. 538-R., that "unless some remedies are applied in *these* (Tanjore and Malabar) districts, the Government of India cannot but fear that the land-owning class will be in a position to pass on to the cultivator any enhancement of revenue which may result from the revision of existing assessments."

Will your Excellency be pleased to inform the Council whether this Government propose to take any steps in the direction indicated in the above extract?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government does not read the words "these districts" as referring to the district of Tanjore, but as referring to the districts of Malabar and South Canara in regard to which districts the letter from the Government of India was specially written. As regards Malabar and South Canara the Government is giving its attention to the subject in connection with the new settlement.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

108 & 109 *Questions*—**108** [V].—If the revenue payable after enhancement has to be paid by the land-owning classes, will the Government be pleased to ascertain whether they are able to pay such enhanced revenue, regard being had to their present cost of personal living and standard of comfort, and will your Excellency be pleased to place such information at the disposal of the press as early as possible?

109 [VI].—Will the Government ascertain how many tenants, if any, are likely to be evicted on account of the proposed increase in revenue, whether the wages of the agricultural labourers particularly, and of the other labourers generally, are likely to be reduced, and what number of persons are likely to be thrown out of employment on account of this enhancement, and whether there are other industries in these two districts which could employ these labourers and evicted tenants; and will your Excellency be pleased to place such information at the disposal of the press as early as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

108 } **109** } *Answer.*—The Government does not propose to take any special measures in the direction indicated by the Hon'ble Member beyond making the usual inquiries in connection with the settlement.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

110 [VII] *Question.*—Whether the Government have ascertained from the district officials what the effect of the proposed enhancement will be on the prosperity of the district, and whether, in Malabar in particular, an enhancement of revenue will not result in an increase in crime? If the Government are in possession of any report on the matter, will such report be made public?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The question is premature inasmuch as it is not yet known what the amount of increase will be. No report of the kind indicated has been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

111 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the pattadar or ryot be informed of the proposed increase of revenue on his holding before it is *finally* settled, and will he be afforded an opportunity of proving, if necessary, that the proposed increase is inequitable and unjust, or contrary to the rules framed or orders passed by the Government of India or Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The course prescribed in Chapter IV, section 62, of the Settlement Manual, will be followed in Malabar as elsewhere.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

112 [IX] *Question.*—Will your Excellency be pleased to call for and place at the disposal of the press from time to time—

The number of holdings where the increase of revenue is between			1 and 25
Do.	do.	do.	25 to 35
Do.	do.	do.	35 to 50
Do.	do.	do.	50 to 75
Do.	do.	do.	75 to 100
Do.	do.	do.	100 to 200
Do.	do.	do.	above 200 per cent.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—When the rates are finally settled, the Government will call for and publish the information asked for by the Hon'ble Member.

(3) Whether the Headmastership of the Mangalore College has not, in the proposed scheme, been placed in the Provincial Service, and whether Mr. Godley's appointment will not increase the number of Europeans in the said service to an extent not contemplated by the scheme ?

(4) Will Government be pleased to favourably consider the claims of men already in the service in consultation with the permanent Director of Public Instruction ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(1) It is the case that Mr. Godley has been appointed to be Headmaster of the Mangalore College and that he has been placed *sub. pro tem.* in the first grade of the Upper Subordinate Service, Scholastic Branch.

(2) Permanent appointments have been avoided of late in order to provide against the bringing of claims to personal allowances on the introduction of the new scheme ; the purpose was not as stated in the question.

(3) The Headmastership of the Mangalore College appears in the Provincial Service under the new scheme. The Provincial Service is not closed to Europeans nor has any limit been imposed as to the number of Europeans who may be appointed thereto. The appointment of Mr. Godley has been made on special grounds. When, in 1865, the inhabitants of South Canara subscribed Rs. 65,000 towards the foundation of a college at Mangalore, they accompanied their donation with the request that the Headmastership should be conferred on a graduate of an English University, and, until Mr. Moss retired in 1893, the wishes of the community in this respect were, except on occasions and for short intervals, complied with. The immediate cause of Mr. Godley's appointment was a memorial from certain inhabitants of South Canara asking for an English graduate, and their prayer was supported by the Collector and the Acting Director of Public Instruction.

(4) If this question has reference to Mr. Godley personally, the answer is that the appointment has already been made. If it is of general application, the answer is that all claims are duly considered when represented to Government.

9. MEETING OF THE 22ND JANUARY 1895.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

129 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Tahsildar of Atmakur in the Kurnool district seized certain articles fashioned of wood in the village of Kurkunda ?

(*b*) If so, were the said articles seized in the dwelling-houses of the villagers ?

(*c*) Were complaints lodged in the Taluk Magistrate's Court, and, if so, in how many cases ?

(*d*) Did the District Forest officer permit the accused parties concerned in these cases to compound ?

(*e*) Was the composition money paid to, and accepted by, the District Forest officer ?

(*f*) If so, were the complaints thereupon withdrawn from the file of the Taluk Magistrate ?

(*g*) If so, did the District Magistrate afterwards direct that the composition should be cancelled, the money returned and the prosecution renewed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Deputy Tahsildar of Atmakur in the exercise of his magisterial powers searched six houses in the village of Kurkunda and seized in five of them 322 pieces of wood believed to have been illicitly removed from the forest. The pieces were roughly fashioned into felloes, naves, spokes, pestles, and the like.

(*b*) The articles were seized in the houses of three carpenters and two ryots. As the Honourable Member is aware, store-rooms and workshops are among this class of people part of the inhabited dwelling-house.

(*c*) Complaints were lodged in the Magistrate's Court in the five cases of seizure.

(*d*) (*e*) & (*f*) The District Forest officer permitted the accused persons in these cases to compound and the composition money was paid and accepted. The intimation of this to the Taluk Magistrate operated as a withdrawal.

(*g*) The Collector cancelled the District Forest officer's order of composition and directed that the accused should be put upon their trial, the composition money being returned. The reasons that induced the Collector to cancel this composition were the prevalence of organized and extensive smuggling of high-class and prohibited timber, the difficulty of suppression, the quantity of forest produce at stake and its value, and finally the breach of departmental rules in compounding cases connected with the illicit cutting or removal of valuable timber of this kind.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

130 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) If such an order was issued by the District Magistrate, did the Taluk Magistrate protest against it as being illegal, on the ground that the withdrawal of a complaint under section 248, Criminal Procedure Code, operates as an acquittal ?

(*b*) If such a protest was made, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Taluk Magistrate's report which contains it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) On the issue of the Collector's order directing the trial of the men, the Taluk Magistrate made no protest and raised no question. Before passing judgment, however, the Taluk Magistrate, as the result of a conversation with the Deputy Tahsildar, appears to have written to the

Collector calling his attention to section 55 of the Forest Act as to the legal effect of the payment of composition. Meantime, however, the Collector and the District Forest officer had been in correspondence on the subject and the Collector on reconsideration cancelled on the 4th December 1893 his previous orders for the prosecution of the accused and allowed them to compound on the terms which they originally offered, at the same time issuing instructions to the Taluk Magistrate staying the criminal proceedings.

(*b*) There being no official protest on record, the Government has nothing to lay on the table. As to the letter referred to above which the Tahsildar states he sent privately to the Collector, it is not to be found.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

131 [III] *Question.*—If the answer to Question II (*a*) * should be in the affirmative, is it a fact that the District Magistrate thereupon transferred the cases to the file of the Probationary Deputy Magistrate ?

*130 (*a*) *supra*, page 51.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The District Magistrate did not transfer the cases to the file of the Probationary Deputy Magistrate.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

132 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Tahsildar of Atmakur seized six cart-wheels and their complementary, three cart-frames, and also thirty-eight wheel-boxes in the dwelling-house of one Lála Honkáram, a timber merchant of Velgode ?

(*b*) If so, was the said merchant prosecuted before the Probationary Deputy Magistrate and acquitted ? Was the attached property ordered to be given over to him ?

(*c*) If so, did the District Magistrate afterwards detain it, and, if so, why and for how long ?

(*d*) If the answer to Question IV (*b*) † be in the affirmative, did the District Magistrate prefer an appeal against the acquittal ? If not, why was the property detained ?

† Clause (*b*) *supra*.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Deputy Tahsildar seized six yegi wheels without tyres, three cart-frames with crossbars, and thirty-eight wheel-boxes from the premises including the store-house and dwelling-house of Lála Honkáram. The Deputy Tahsildar was willing on Lála's explanation to release some of the articles, but Lála would not agree to this but said all must be released or none.

(*b*) Lála was tried and acquitted by the Probationary Deputy Magistrate, who, however, under a misapprehension of section 517, Criminal Procedure Code, passed no order directing the making over of the property to him.

(*c*) The District Magistrate had nothing to do with the detention, directly or indirectly. The acquittal was passed in February 1894. The Ranger, whose duty it was to see that the property was restored, failed to bring the matter to the District Forest officer's notice till 30th April, when the latter officer, finding that the list of confiscated property produced did not bear out the Ranger's statement, ordered it to be detained pending further inquiry. The matter was lost sight of and as neither the Ranger nor Lála himself made any subsequent reference to the District Forest officer about it, the property was not returned till nine months after the acquittal.

(*d*) The District Magistrate preferred no appeal against the acquittal. The circumstances of the detention have just been explained.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

133 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that the following seven villages, viz., Talamudipi, Velgode, Kurkonda, Guvulagunta, Virapuram, Edurupadu and Sivapuram were searched by the Deputy Tahsildar of Atmakur ?

(*b*) Did the Deputy Tahsildar seize articles in dwelling-houses ?

(*c*) If so, was any formal complaint or information previously received, and was any warrant issued ?

(*d*) If not, what procedure was followed ?

(*e*) If the answer to Question V (*b*) * be in the affirmative, did the articles consist of cots and used cart-wheels ?

* Clause (*b*) *supra*.

(*f*) If so, did one of the latter belong to one Vastipalli Venkataramudu, and had it a worn-out tyre ?

(*g*) Was V. Venkataramudu tried and convicted ? If so, on what evidence ?

(*h*) Was one Nagalla Chandrayya also punished for being in possession of two teakwood cots, one plough-shaft and other fashioned articles ?

(*i*) Is it a fact that in both these cases composition money had been accepted by the Forest Department, and that the complaints before the Magistrate had been withdrawn ?

(*j*) If so, did the District Magistrate subsequently cancel the withdrawal and order the prosecution of the accused in these cases ?

(*k*) Did the Tahsildar, M.R.Ry. Sethu Row, object in a report to this procedure ?

(*l*) Did the District Magistrate hear the appeals in these cases and dismiss them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Deputy Tahsildar searched certain houses in the four villages of Talamudipi, Velgode, Kurkonda, Guvulagunta ; in the villages of Sivapuram and Edurupadu the police conducted the searches, in Virapuram no houses were searched. The seventy-two unclaimed articles belonging to Virapuram were picked up in the fields inside the tank where they had been thrown.

(*b*) In twenty-two houses, 1,369 articles were seized as illicit forest produce.

(*c*) & (*d*) In the first case, in which 762 articles were seized in a timber merchant's house, the Deputy Tahsildar, who had personally observed a large quantity of fresh wood on the premises, acted as a Magistrate on suspicion under sections 105 and 191 (*c*), Criminal Procedure Code. It was notorious that extensive smuggling from the forests was going on. In the subsequent searches in the four villages named in the first part of this answer, the Deputy Tahsildar acted under the same sections on information received. The house searched in Sivapuram was searched in the Deputy Tahsildar's presence by the police with a warrant, and so were the three houses in Edurupadu. In Virapuram the seventy-two unclaimed articles seized were, as stated above, picked up in the fields inside the tank where they had been thrown.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

113 [X] *Question.*—Will your Excellency be pleased to direct the District and Divisional Magistrates to publish in the local Gazettes and submit to the High Court any remarks they consider necessary to pass on any discharge, acquittal, or conviction of accused persons by their subordinate Magistrates for offences against Salt, Abkári and Forest Laws and any circulars or orders issued by them on the administration of those laws?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by the issue of any such direction and is not prepared to take action in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

114 & 115 *Questions*—**114** [XI].—Is it true that a petition signed by numerous persons was presented to the Tahsildar of Walawanad in Malabar complaining of oppression by Abkári officials? Did the Tahsildar make any enquiry and report, and did the Collector take any, and if so, what steps in the matter?

115 [XII].—Is it true that a system of granting special rewards for the detection of crimes to Salt and Abkári peons or other officials in those departments exists or recently existed in Malabar? What was the amount, if any, so paid to the peons, other officials in 1893-94?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

114 & 115 *Answers.*—**114**. In reply to inquiry the Collector of Malabar has telegraphed as follows :—

"Petition signed by 105 Chetties of Kuttampalle to Bradley sent to Walawanad Tahsildar for inquiry. His report incomplete. I made inquiry and dismissed petition as false. Know of no petition to Tahsildar."

This has since been confirmed by a report from the Collector which ends as follows :—

"The result of my enquiry is that petitioners have utterly failed to prove a single act of oppression or extortion on the part of the Abkári officials. It is clear that the petition was got up because petitioners' dhoby had been arrested for smuggling."

115. General rules for the grant of rewards in Salt and Abkári cases, which have been in force for many years, will be found in paragraph 121 of the Board's Circular Order No. I of 1891. These rules are applicable to all districts. Under these rules rewards aggregating Rs. 55,773 were granted in 1893-94 in the Malabar district in Salt and Abkári cases. This sum includes—in addition to the rewards granted to officials of the Salt and Abkári Department—rewards paid to officials of other departments (*e.g.*, Police) and to informers and others rendering service in the detection of Salt and Abkári cases. Information is not available as to what part of the above-named sum was paid to officials of the Salt and Abkári Department.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

116 & 117 *Questions*—**116** [XIII].—Whether the Government will be pleased to obtain a statement showing the names and classes of the District Board Local Fund Engineers employed in the several districts of this Presidency and state what are the rules and qualifications under which their appointments are made?

117 [XIV].—Whether, in consideration of the large number of graduates turned out of the Civil Engineering College each year, the Government would not deem it just to the claims of the Indians to frame rules for filling up future appointments so that suitable opportunities may be afforded to them to compete for the same?

(5) Paragraph 9 of G.O., No. 562, dated 2nd August 1894, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

126 [XXIII] *Question.*—(1) Is it a fact that cultivable land of 56 villages to the extent of about 180,000 acres in and around the Lake Colair on the borders of the Gódávari and Kistna districts is subject to submersion during a great part of the year, and that consequently the crops raised thereon are damaged for want of sufficient provision for draining the surplus waters of the Kistna Eastern Delta and the Gódávari Western Delta let into the lake and of the hill streams flowing into it?

(2) Is it a fact also that owing to the unchecked growth of grasses and weeds and their decay in the Colair, the mortality among cattle has much increased (a peculiar kind of disease called Iduga being prevalent among them), and the sanitary condition of the surrounding villages is much affected?

(3) Will Government be pleased to order an investigation into the above matters and adopt such measures for the proper drainage and sanitation of the Colair and its surrounding villages as may be deemed necessary for the protection of nearly two lakhs of acres of land and about 60,000 inhabitants and their cattle?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—(1) In the absence of full information upon the subject it is not possible to say whether the statements contained in this question are substantially correct, but so far as Government is informed, they appear to be greatly exaggerated.

(2) The Government has no information as to the alleged effect of the growth of grasses and weeds, and their decay in the Colair Lake.

(3) The question of how to manage the Colair has been under consideration for many years, and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation has lately received a report upon the subject from the Superintending Engineer, which is now under consideration. The Government will have the matters alluded to by the Hon'ble Member carefully investigated.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

127 [XXIV] *Question.*—Whether, with reference to the letter of His Excellency the Viceroy to A. O. Hume, Esq., dated 19th January 1891, the Government considers that rule 67 of the "Rules regulating the personal conduct of Public Servants" prohibits Government officials from being present at the meetings of the approaching Indian National Congress as mere visitors without in any manner, directly or indirectly, participating in the proceedings or deliberations thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The rule is distinct and is a repetition of the instructions of the Government of India. It must be read with rules 68 and 69. If it is so read, no Government official should be in any doubt as to the course he should take.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

128 [XXV] *Question.*—(1) Whether it is true that Mr. Godley, M.A., has been or is shortly to be appointed Headmaster of the Mangalore College and placed in the first grade of the Upper Subordinate Service, Scholastic Branch?

(2) Whether avoidance for some time past of permanent appointments in the Educational Department, when there were permanent vacancies, was not solely intended to facilitate the consideration of the claims of men already in the department when the scheme for the Provincial and European Services is sanctioned by the Secretary of State?

(*e*) Almost all the articles seized, nearly 1,600 in number, consisted of pieces of timber more or less roughly shaped in the forest and intended to be made ultimately into yokes, ploughs, wheel-naves, cot-pieces, spokes, felloes, and other domestic and agricultural implements and designated by these names. The wheel-naves were blocks of wood about a foot in diameter and in length; the yokes were poles cut to the length of a yoke; and so generally with the other articles. In a few cases the carpenters had already made an impression on the blocks; but the articles were not old nor had they ever been used. The only exceptions were two cots, which were found concealed on the top of a mosque with other articles believed to be illicit; the cots did not, however, bear any evidence of having been used. There were also two cart-wheels with tyres, but the wood-work was new, the axle-boxes had not been greased, while the tyres had apparently been used on other wheels.

(*f*) The wheels were seized with other articles on the premises of Vastipalli Venkataramudu.

(*g*) V. Venkataramudu was tried, convicted and fined Rs. 100. The evidence shortly was his own contradictory statements as to his possession, the proof of which under section 56 of the Forest Act lay in the opinion of the Court upon him, and there was the improbability of the wood being of the age he alleged: his defence witnesses were also discredited.

(*h*) Nagalla Chandrayya was tried and convicted. The charge included the two cots mentioned in the former part of this answer as found concealed on the top of a mosque. The other illicit articles were eight wheel-boxes and three plough-poles, all rough-fashioned.

(*i*), (*j*) & (*k*) It is not true that these two cases were ever compounded and the prosecution withdrawn. There was thus no order of the District Magistrate of the kind referred to, nor any objection by the Tahsildar.

(*l*) The District Magistrate heard the appeals in the two cases and dismissed them. Applications to the High Court for the transfer of the appeals were made and then withdrawn by the appellants.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—

134 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Were carts belonging to one Amir Khan ready at the foot of the hills, eleven miles from Velgode, to remove twenty-four logs of first-class timber? When were these logs seized?

(*b*) If so, were these logs seized by the Revenue authorities?

(*c*) Was the party ordered to be prosecuted?

(*d*) If the answer to Question VI (*b*) * be in the affirmative, did the Forest officers protest against the seizure as illegal on the ground that the logs were covered by permits issued by them and endorsed by the Revenue officers?

* Clause (*b*) *supra.*

(*e*) Did the District Magistrate nevertheless detain these logs for seven months and did he order the prosecution of the party?

(*f*) If such protest was made by the Forest officer, will the Government be pleased to produce it?

(*g*) Did the District Magistrate keep under attachment for seven months 100 cart-loads of first-class timber, covered by Forest Department permits?

(*h*) If so, upon what ground?

(*i*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Tahsildar of Atmakur confiscated three cart-loads of timber which he seized in the Velgode Forest tannah?

(*j*) Had these cart-loads been committed to the custody of the tannahdar in accordance with Forest Rules procedure by the holders of permits for the said cart-loads?

(*k*) Did the Tahsildar report there were no permits, and that he found the timber in the tannah?

(*l*) Did the District Forest officer and Ranger bring to the District Magistrate's notice that this seizure was illegal, as no rule was infringed, and that there were permits which the Deputy Tahsildar had endorsed?

(*m*) If so, what action did the District Magistrate take thereupon?

(*n*) Was the Forest tannahdar soon after this dismissed, and, if so, why?

(*o*) If so, will the Government be pleased to produce the Forest officer's report in this matter?

(*p*) Is it a fact that after these seizures one Vadam Venkat Reddi of Velgode, who held permits for six cart-loads or 24 logs of wood, denied the ownership of four of these logs, although he held the following permits for them: Nos. 492070 to 492075 for cart-loads (24 logs) of first-class timber?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government has no information about Amir Khan's carts, but sixteen (not twenty-four) logs claimed by him were found about the 22nd October 1893 in charge of persons who held no permits. Although permits were produced very shortly afterwards, the wood was detained by the Deputy Tahsildar who had gone to the place to investigate frauds in connection with the removal of timber from the forests, in which frauds the forest subordinates were believed to be implicated.

(*c*) No order to prosecute Amir Khan was ever made. It was proposed to prosecute the persons in charge of the wood without permit, but this was not done.

(*d*) The Forest Ranger wrote a report declaring the seizure to be illegal because permits were actually in existence and the period of their currency had been duly extended to cover the date of seizure. The permits produced were marked by the Revenue officials to indicate they had seen them. But the ground of the seizure was not the mere omission to have permits. The logs were detained because there was reason to believe that genuine permits were being used more than once or in other fraudulent ways with the connivance of the Forest subordinates to cover irregular removals. The *bonâ fides* of the permits was in question, as well as the conduct of the Forest subordinates themselves.

(*e*) The logs were detained about seven months while the illicit practices to which I have just referred were under inquiry. As already stated, orders were issued for the prosecution of the persons found with the wood; but were eventually withdrawn as the result of the inquiry.

(*f*) A copy of the Ranger's report of the 13th November 1893 will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

(*g*) & (*h*) Yes, for the same reasons as in Amir Khan's case. It may be here explained that during the pendency of the inquiry, the owners of the attached wood were allowed to arrange the timber in heaps to save it from the weather.

(*i*) The Deputy Tahsildar detained—he did not confiscate—three cart-loads found without permit at Velgode tannah.

(*j*) The wood had been deposited at the tannah ostensibly to be passed in the usual way.

(*k*) The Deputy Tahsildar reported that out of eleven cart-loads lying at the tannah, three were not covered by permits when he went there. Permits were subsequently produced for the three loads, but in circumstances so suspicious that he was compelled to detain the wood pending inquiry.

(*l*) The District Forest officer forwarded to the Collector a report from the Ranger giving his reasons for considering the seizure not to be justified because permits were produced.

(*m*) The Collector was not satisfied with the explanation offered and directed that the men who brought the wood to the tannah should be prosecuted for the reasons indicated in the answer to paragraph (*d*) above.

(*n*) The Forest tannahdar was dismissed because he was found to be implicated in the illegal removal of wood from the forests. He was subsequently reinstated on appeal to the Board of Revenue, who, however, directed that, as his conduct was not wholly satisfactory, he should not be allowed pay for the five months he was out of employ.

(*o*) A copy of the Ranger's report of the 8th November 1893 will be given to the Hon'ble Member.

(*p*) The Hon'ble Mr. Sturrock states as follows (*vide* paragraph 63 of his report) :—

" It is a fact that when some logs were found uncovered by permits in the possession of Wudders who said that they had been cut for one Vadam Venkat Reddi, the said Vadam Venkat Reddi afterwards denied responsibility for them, although he did at the time hold permits under which they might have been cut. There is nothing to show that the wood was actually felled and squared after the permits had been taken out and, looking to the proved prevalence of illicit felling, it would seem that Vadam Venkat Reddi thought it safer to repudiate these particular beams—if indeed they had been cut for him, for which there is only the word of the Wudders. "

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

135 [VII] *Question.*—(1) Has the Government received mahazars, or any communications from rate-payers of Adóni and Kurnool towns, praying for the introduction of elective system into their municipalities ?

(2) Has the Government passed any orders ; if so, what are they ?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to introduce the elective principle into all municipalities that have been in existence for more than five years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(1) The answer to the first question is " Yes, " but in the case of Kurnool, not for the last three years.

(2) The answer to the second question is " Yes. " The Government said that it was not prepared to comply with the petitioners' requests.

(3) As to the third question, the Government is not prepared to give any such pledge, but is ready to consider the case of any municipality which has been five years in existence and the rate-payers of which desire the elective privilege.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

136 [VIII] *Question.*—Referring to the returns of mortality from wild animals and snakes in India during the year 1893, will the Government be pleased to state what remedial measures they have taken, and whether they do not consider it advisable to sanction increased rewards for the destruction of wild animals and snakes to make it the worthwhile of shikaries and others to engage themselves in this work ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The remedial measures taken with regard to the destruction of wild animals are that the Government offers liberal money rewards and gives special rewards in exceptional cases. The question as to what should be the amount of the rewards has been carefully considered and it does not seem to Government desirable to enhance them. Licenses to possess arms and ammunition for the purpose of destroying wild animals are procurable without charge and are freely granted. With regard to the grant of rewards for killing snakes, the Government of India on a review of the whole question arrived at the conclusion that experience has shown that no system of rewards is likely to have any appreciable effect on the mortality from snake-bite. The experiment has been tried in this Presidency on several occasions, but has never proved successful ; and His Excellency in Council sees no reason to revive it. One method which may prove effective is the removal of the jungle undergrowth, ruined walls and the like in and around villages so as to destroy the cover for snakes in inhabited sites where they are most dangerous to human life and this is being tried as shown in G.O., dated 8th May 1894, No. 324, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

137 [IX] *Question.*—(1) What is the number of non-official members of the District Board of Nellore, village munsifs being considered *officials ?*

(2) Is it true that the Raja of Venkatagiri is not represented on it for a whole year or longer, and, if so, is the Government prepared to make arrangements for the representation of the Raja on the Board ?

(3) How many of the Raja's officials are members of the Taluk Boards of Nayudupet and Ongole which are in his zamindari ?

(4) Is it true that the Raja represented to the President that he must be represented in the local boards, and, if so, is it true that the President of the District Board has declined to comply with his request ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Complete information on these matters is not available in the Government office, but the President of the District Board will be asked to report, and I request that the Honourable Member will repeat his questions at the next meeting * of the Council.

* 176 *infra*: p. 71.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

138 [X] *Question.*—Is it true that Mr. Thomson, the then Collector of Tanjore, has reported that " rentals on estates under the Court of Wards' management have been freely cited in favour of the landholders ; my years' experience of Tanjore has given me a most unfavourable impression of the agency that has been employed under the Court in every estate under their charge ? " Has the Government called upon the Court of Wards and their agents to meet the charge brought against them, or has your Excellency taken any other step to satisfy yourself of the truth of this statement ? If this statement is true, does the Government propose to compensate the owners of these estates for the loss sustained by them on account of the bad management of the Court of Wards and their agent, the Collector ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The statement quoted by the Honourable Member is to be found in a report embodied in the Revenue Board's Proceedings, dated 1st November 1892, No. 719, which was communicated to the Press and which the Honourable Member has presumably read. The Government has reason

to believe that the Collector's statement is too sweeping, and although the management of the numerous petty estates in the district of Tanjore may leave something to be desired, it has been on the whole as good as was possible in the circumstances. The Government has not called upon the Court of Wards for any explanation nor does it propose to do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

139 [XI] *Question.*—Will "the usual inquiries in connection with the settlement" in Tanjore enable the Government or the public to form an opinion as to the ability of the pattadars or other holders of land to pay the enhanced revenue, regard being had to their cost of personal living and standard of comfort, and will such inquiries show how many tenants are likely to be evicted on account of the proposed increase of revenue; whether the wages of the agricultural labourers particularly, and the other labourers generally, are likely to be reduced and what number of persons are likely to be thrown out of employment on account of such enhancement, and, if so, will your Excellency be pleased to place such information at the disposal of the press and will your Excellency be pleased to state the views, if any, of the Government on the matters referred to in this question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The reports of the Deputy Commissioners and other papers relating to the Tanjore settlement have been communicated to the press and it is for the public to decide whether it can form an opinion upon the matters indicated by the Hon'ble Member.

The settlement was adopted after the fullest discussion; it has been finally approved by the Secretary of State, who has rejected the memorial against it submitted by the landholders of Tanjore and the Government leaves it with confidence to the future to show the results of the settlement.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

140 [XII] *Question.*—Will your Excellency be pleased to place at the disposal of the press a statement showing the number of holdings in the district of Tanjore where the enhanced revenue is between—

1 and 25 per cent.	100 and 200 per cent.
25 and 50 ,,	and above 200 ,,
50 and 75 ,,	,, 400 ,,
75 and 100 ,,	,, 500 ,,

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government will endeavour to obtain the information asked for by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

141 [XIII] *Question.*—Is it not a fact that in the Chingleput district in almost every village a certain area was set apart at the time of the settlement for grazing purposes—will your Excellency be pleased to ascertain whether they continue to be set apart for grazing purposes or whether they have not been included in forest reserves?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The information at present before the Government does not enable it to say in how many villages of the Chingleput district an area was set apart at settlement for grazing purposes. It appears, however, from the settlement reports that 9,960 acres were so set apart for pasturage and 31,715 acres for fuel in the whole district.

The Government has already called for a report as to the extent to which areas registered at settlement as grazing grounds have been included in forest reserves, and the report will on receipt be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

142 [XIV] *Question.*—Is it the fact that any land taken up for cultivation will now be assessed without reference to the crop (whatever it may be) raised on it, and whether it is not a departure from the system hitherto prevailing under which the produce alone was taxed, and was it not the later practice that prevailed when the Government abolished the tax on pepper vine and promised not to revive the tax on the growing vine?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the replies which were made to his questions I to III * at the meeting of the Council on 20th November last. In view of the fact, of which the Hon'ble Member is aware from the papers furnished to him, that the settlement of Malabar is now under consideration, the Government is not at present prepared to make any further pronouncement regarding details of assessment in that district.

* 104, 105 and 106 *supra*, p. 42.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

143 [XV] *Question.*—Is it the fact that the Committee appointed in 1889 to discuss the principles on which revision of assessments should be based recommended the tree-tax or the system of taxing the produce to be abandoned on the ground that pepper will have to be excluded under the pledges given by the Government and recommended the adoption of land-tax as the only means of reaching pepper (see paragraphs 36 and 37 of the report of the Committee)?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—As the Hon'ble Member is evidently in possession of the information asked for, the only answer that Government can give is to refer him to the report which he quotes.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

144 [XVI] *Question.*— Will "the usual inquiries in connection with the settlement" of Malabar enable the Government to form an opinion on matters referred to in question II †?

† 139 *supra*, p. 56.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.— The Government anticipates that when the usual inquiries referred to are completed, it will be in a position to form an opinion upon all matters necessary for the introduction of the settlement.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

145 [XVII] *Question.*—Is it not a fact that the Government has before it the report of the Settlement Officer for Malabar and the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue recommending an enhancement of revenue in Malabar, and does the Government propose to take into consideration, in determining the amount of enhancement, the probability and the extent of increase in crime owing to such enhancement of revenue ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The report of the Settlement Officer and the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue have been received, but have not been considered pending the receipt of the remarks of the Kerala Mahajana Sabha to whom the papers have been sent. The Government is not in a position to answer the latter part of the Hon'ble Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

146 [XVIII] *Question.*—Whether it is not a fact that District and Divisional Magistrates sometimes issue circulars or orders to their subordinate magistrates requiring more numerous convictions and the infliction of severe punishments in cases of Salt and Abkári prosecutions, and, if so, whether the Government will place such circulars at the disposal of the press or on the Council table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no knowledge of the matter. If the Hon'ble Member will specify any cases of the kind to which he refers, the Government will be prepared to consider them.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

147 [XIX] *Question.*—Whether the Government has passed any orders on the report of the Collector referred to in the answer to my question XI * on the 20th November 1894, that the petition was sent by 105 Chetties as a dhoby was arrested for smuggling ? If so, will your Excellency be pleased to place it on the Council table ? Will your Excellency be pleased to state whether the Tahsildar found any of the charges were well founded, and, if so, what these charges are ?

* 114 *supra*, p. 44.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—A copy of the District Magistrate's proceedings on the subject has been received from the Board of Revenue and has been recorded by Government. A copy of the Government Order will be furnised to the Hon'ble Member.

It will be seen from paragraph 1 of the District Magistrate's proceedings that the Tahsildar, after a summary enquiry, reported that the charges against the Salt and Abkári officials were well founded and suggested that their conduct should be investigated. The District Magistrate held an enquiry and recorded the finding given in my answer to the question † on the same subject asked by the Hon'ble Member at the last meeting of the Legislative Council.

† *Ibid.*

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

148 [XX] *Question.*—Considering the number of the graduates of this University and the fact that there are only 40 Fellows out of 134 who are natives, of whom only 24 are graduates, and that there is only one member of the syndicate who is a native of India, will your Excellency be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing a larger number than usual of native graduates as Fellows of the University ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Government will give due consideration to the Hon'ble Member's suggestion that a larger number of graduates who are natives of India should be appointed to be Fellows of the University.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

149 & **150** *Questions.* **149** [XXI].—Does the Government see any objection to deputing agricultural inspectors to selected centres to carry out experimental cultivation side by side with the ryot, and will your Excellency kindly state the objections, if any, to the same ?

150 [XXII].—In view of the pending settlement in Malabar and Canara, will your Excellency be pleased to depute some agricultural inspectors to carry out the experiment on the above lines in these districts so that correct data may be made available for ascertaining the cultivation expenses and the grain outturn for different soils ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

149 } *Answer.*—The suggestions made by the Hon'ble Member will be referred
150 } for report to the Revenue Board.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

151 [XXIII] *Question.*—(1) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the number of petitions presented up to date by the Tanjore landholders objecting to the revised assessment —

(*a*) to the Deputy Commissioners of Settlement and

(*b*) to the Board of Revenue, the number of petitions remaining undisposed of with the Deputy Commissioners, and the number of appeals in which the Board of Revenue have modified the decision of the Deputy Commissioners ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether an appeal lies to them in such matters ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(1) The Government has called for the information required by the Hon'ble Member.

(2) There is no provision in the Settlement Manual for any appeal to Government in these matters, but under the petition rules any person aggrieved by the executive order of a subordinate authority can petition Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

152 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of reduction in assessment effected by the Settlement Department on lands in the taluks of Kumbakónam, Nannilam and Máyavaram subsequent to the final Government Order on Tanjore Settlement, and in pursuance of the statement in paragraph 8 of the same that " the introduction of the alluvial series which is altogether exceptional in settlement schemes has had the effect of raising the assessment in Kumbakónam, Nannilam and Máyavaram taluks by 48, 46 and 34 per cent., respectively. The Board's proposal to moderate the increase in these three taluks by reducing the classification of the soil is fully approved "?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any effect has been given to the following directions in the same order :—

"His Excellency the Governor in Council accordingly resolves to direct that careful consideration be given to this point (the varying degrees of efficiency in individual villages or in groups of villages) in introducing the settlement, and that the necessary alteration of classification of sources with reference to efficiency of irrigation and drainage and the character of the water-supply be effected on a consideration of local circumstances . . . . The classification of those tracts which are irrigated from the latter sources (drainage channels) must be revised at the time of the introduction of the settlement with reference to the above remarks?"

If so, will the Government be pleased to state the amount of reduction consequent thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) In the Kumbakónam taluk, the total reduction of assessment granted subsequent to the final Government Order on the Tanjore Settlement was about Rs. 1,13,000. This is made up of a reduction of Rs. 14,000, due to the lowering of the grouping of irrigation sources in pursuance of the orders of Government, Rs. 45,000 due to lowering of classification of (alluvial) soils and Rs. 54,000 due to transfer of unirrigated garden lands to dry.

In Nannilam, the reduction amounted to over Rs. 95,000 (Rs. 10,47,499—9,52,336). The amount includes a reduction of Rs. 60,537 due to lowering of soil classification, Rs. 5,479 due to lowering of grouping of drainage channels, and Rs. 27,372 to transfer of unirrigated garden and of manavari lands to dry.

In Máyavaram, the reduction amounted to Rs. 32,092. There was a reduction of Rs. 5,205 and Rs. 9,166 by lowering the grouping of drainage sources and of soil classification, respectively, and of Rs. 34,805 by transfer of wet and manavari lands and of unirrigated garden lands to dry. There was also a decrease of Rs. 3,157 due to changes subsequent to the submission of the Board's scheme and of Rs. 7,217 under tirvajasti (water-rate) which was included in "revenue" figures, but omitted from the Deputy Commissioner's figures given in the Board's scheme. The difference between Rs. 59,550 and Rs. 32,092 represents increases due to transfer of dry lands to wet and of the enhancement of classification in some villages in which subsequent investigation showed this to be necessary.

(*b*) The revision of the classification of irrigation sources in the three taluks referred to was carried out by the Deputy Commissioners to the best of their judgment and ability, with the result that the assessment was reduced by about Rs. 25,000 as shown above. In many cases in which the original soil classification was further lowered in pursuance of the orders of Government, it was found unnecessary to grant further relief by lowering the grouping of irrigation sources.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

153 [XXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in view of the increase of assessment in the resettlement of Tanjore, an increased allotment was made in the budget for 1894-95, and whether any such allotment will be made in the budget for 1895-96 for the more equitable and economical distribution of water in that district?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—The allotments in the budget are not made with reference to the revenue, but according to the amounts reported by Superintending Engineers

to be necessary for the upkeep of the works. The allotments for the Tanjore district in 1893–94 and 1894–95 were as follows :—

	1893-94.	1894-95.
	RS.	RS.
Cauvery Delta system	66,808	80,219
Tank Restoration works	24,000	75,000
Other sub-heads	93,230	78,458
Total ..	1,84,038	2,33,677

There was therefore an increase in 1894-95 over 1893-94, but whether there will be a further increase in 1895-96 cannot yet be said as the budget has not yet been considered in detail. It is improbable, however, that there will be any large increase in expenditure pending the receipt of completion estimates, for the preparation of which a special establishment was recently sanctioned.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

154 [XXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Department of Public Works bore for a long time the entire cost of strengthening the banks of the main irrigation channels (called rivers) in the Tanjore district by planting reeds, etc., and whether recently the Executive Engineer has been requiring the landholders themselves to bear such cost?

If so, will the Government be pleased to direct a reversion to the old practice?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—Government has no information on the subject at present, but a reference will be made to the Superintending Engineer.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

155 [XXVII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that there are some channels in Tanjore, mainly drainage, such as Poyyai near Pápanásam and the Palavar to the north of Kumbakónam, and also certain canals such as the one connecting Negapatam and Védáranniyam, which have no continuous embankments to protect the lands on either side from being flooded by the overflow of water from them, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to provide for these embankments being put up?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.— Continuous embankments to keep flood water within the limits of river margins are of doubtful benefit as, if a breach does occur, the damage is, as a rule, much more severe than if the water is allowed to spread over the adjoining fields and flow quietly away. A great deal was done towards reducing the effect of floods in the Cauvery delta by the construction of the Cauvery and Vennár regulators, and the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, is now preparing plans and estimates to increase the discharging power of the Lower anicut in order to still further reduce the severity of such floods. The question of embanking rivers and channels will be considered when the completion estimates are received, but it is improbable that any large expenditure in this direction will be found desirable.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

156 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the jamabandi of the district of Tanjore in accordance with the recent resettlement was completed only by the end of September last, and that the pattas to be given to the landholders were not ready even then, and yet that the District authorities collected interest from July last on the amounts fixed and demanded only after September, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to order a refund of the sum so collected ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—It is true that, owing to the introduction of the new rates, the jamabandi was not completed till the end of September ; but no information is available as to whether interest was charged in cases where the demand was not settled before 1st July. The Collector has been asked to report on the subject. If it is found that interest was charged in respect of any demand not settled before the close of the fasli, orders will be issued for refunding the amount.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

157 [XXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct that, in the case of joint pattas issued to the landholders of Tanjore, the share of each in accordance with enjoyment, or in cases of doubt or dispute in accordance with the revenue accounts, should be entered therein, and that when one of the joint pattadars falls in arrears the revenue due be collected by taking coercive processes against the land alone ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to give any such direction.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

158 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that landholders in Tanjore are in possession of certain lands which are measured in paimash accounts as tope lands, that they were hitherto paying the assessment on the trees standing on such lands in consequence of the tree-tax being higher than the assessment on the lands themselves, and that in the old pattas of the landholders there was therefore only an entry of the trees so taxed ?

(*b*) Will the Government in cases in which trees continue to stand on such tope lands be pleased to order an entry in individual pattas of the extent of such tope lands and the assessment thereon ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in the resettlement even those tope lands on such trees do not now stand have not been separately measured, assessed and entered in individual pattas, and will the Government be pleased to direct that land assessment alone be levied in such cases ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government will call for a report upon the points raised by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

159 [XXXI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the season of the second-crop cultivation of dry lands in Tanjore begins in January when the Cauvery and its branches are invariably dry and that water for this cultivation is therefore lifted up from temporary

wells sunk in the beds of the rivers at much labour and cost, and, if so, will the Government, in consideration of the above disadvantage, be pleased to relieve the landholders from the payment of the water-cess of Rs. 1-8-0 per acre now levied on such second-crop cultivation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to grant the concession suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

160 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that in respect of the lands in seven villages belonging to Musali Nayudu and two others of Alangudicheri in the Negapatam taluk, whose estate was under the management of the Court of Wards till recently, the estimated outturn of the lands, as fixed by the Settlement Department for determining the assessment, was in all cases more than double the average yield thereof as realized by the Court of Wards during the six years from fasli 1291 to fasli 1297 ?

(*b*) Have the appeals preferred by the said landholders against the assessment based on the above estimate been rejected by the Board of Revenue and the Government, and if so, will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the actual yield of the lands under the management of the Court of Wards was rejected as valueless ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is not in possession of any trustworthy statistics showing the yield of the lands in question while under the management of the Court of Wards. The outturn accounts kept by the Court from fasli 1292 to 1297 do not show the gross outturn or the areas of lands concerned in each case.

(*b*) The appeals have been rejected both by the Board and by Government. As there were no trustworthy statistics of outturn, the assessment imposed by the new settlement was considered to be moderate and was confirmed accordingly.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

161 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the number of European and Eurasian Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, etc., in the Salt and Abkári Department and in the Police Department to whom exchange compensation allowance is paid even though they make no remittances to places outside India, and will the Government be pleased to state the aggregate amount of compensation paid to these officers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—I regret that I am unable to give any other answer than the one * which I gave to the Hon'ble Mr. Rangayya Nayudu at the meeting of the Council on March 7, 1894, on the same subject, and to which I beg to refer the Honourable Member.

* 73 *supra*, p. 31.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

162 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to take steps for providing closet accommodation in third-class carriages in the railways under their control ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—The Railway Act of 1890 provides that one or more third-class compartments shall in every passenger train be reserved for the exclusive use of females, and if the train is to run for a distance exceeding 50 miles the compartment shall be provided with a closet, and this is carried out on the railways under the Madras Government.

Government of India Circular (No. XV, Railways), dated 20th November 1894, a copy of which will be sent to the Honourable Member if he wishes it, has been lately issued calling the attention of railway administrations to the great importance of taking measures to increase the comfort and convenience of Native passengers; special reference is made to the provision of retiring accommodation for third-class passengers, and the railway authorities under this Government have this matter under their consideration at the present time.

The matter is one of considerable difficulty and expense, but it is hoped that by either gradually fitting existing carriages with latrines or providing separate latrine carriages, the present undoubted inconveniences may be removed.

The Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

163 [XXXV] *Question.*—Whether, in view of the continued arrears of work in the Madras High Court, Government are taking any steps with a view to the appointment of a permanent fifth Puisne Judge, the necessity for which was set forth in the Madras Government's despatch to the Government of India, Home Department, Judicial, No. 1771 of 11th November 1890, which contained the following paragraph: "It will be seen that the High Court looks upon the retention of a fifth Puisne Judge as indispensable, and I am to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council is in full accord with the High Court upon this point." ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—In February 1893 this Government requested the Government of India to move the Secretary of State to sanction the retention of a fifth Puisne Judge during 1893-94, but the Secretary of State declined to do so. Since the Honourable Member's question was received, a communication has been received from the High Court which the Government has not yet had time to consider, but which appears to raise, *inter alia*, the question of the employment of a fifth Puisne Judge. Until the Government has had time to consider the High Court's letter, it is not possible to say what action will be decided on.

The Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

164 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Whether Government have in contemplation to increase the limit of jurisdiction of the City Civil Court, and if so, to what extent ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no power of itself to raise the jurisdiction of the City Civil Court. For that purpose legislation would be necessary. A communication on the subject has just been received from the High Court, and until it has been considered, the Government cannot say whether any steps to procure the extension of the jurisdiction of the City Civil Court will be taken.

The Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

165 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Whether when the City Civil Court Bill was introduced a majority of the members of the Select Committee to whom the Bill was referred expressed a strong opinion that the limit prescribed by the Bill, viz., Rs. 2,500, should not be exceeded, and that the new Court should be confined to the trial of petty cases ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the report of the Select Committee which he will find in Part V of the *Gazette of India* of the 26th March 1892 and in the Supplement to the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 5th April 1892.

The Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

166 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—Whether Government have in contemplation to extend the Court Fees Act, 1870, to the Original Side of the High Court, in lieu of the scale of fees now leviable in that Court ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—In reviewing the Civil Justice report for 1893 the Government asked the opinion of the High Court as to the expediency of substituting the scale of fees prescribed in the Court Fees Act for the scale now in force in the High Court. The Honourable the Judges have not yet replied on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

167 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Whether such a change will not materially increase taxation to suitors ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The exact effect of change referred to will be a matter for consideration when the High Court reports on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

168 [XL] *Question.*—Whether Government will give sufficient notice of any recommendation which they propose to make to the Supreme Government with a view to legislation affecting the Madras High Court, to enable an expression of public opinion to be made upon a matter gravely affecting public interests ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government will endeavour to give the public a reasonable opportunity to express its opinion before recommending to the Government of India any legislation on the subject referred to.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

169 [XLI] *Question.*—In the matter of enhancing the water-cess by 25 per cent. in Gódávari and Kistna districts, were any reports called for from the Collectors of the said districts and from the Board of Revenue or the Member in charge of the Settlement Department ? If so, will Government be pleased to place them on the table ? If not, will Government be pleased to state why the Collectors of the said districts were not consulted ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—No. It was not considered necessary to consult the Collectors, as the Government considered it had all the requisite information.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

170 [XLII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer * given by Government at the last meeting of the Council that "the full option of refusing irrigation now allowed was not allowed under the old rules" and that "the Government does not consider that any option was needed," is it not a fact that ryots during the last twelve years or more have had and have been exercising this option of refusing irrigation within the 31st March of each year ?

* 125, (1) and (4) *supra*, pp. 48 and 49.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The full option was given in 1873 when the revised set of rules was issued and had to be exercised before the 31st March or three months before the commencement of the fasli year.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

171 [XLIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that when the water-rate was enhanced in 1865 there was an understanding that the rate then fixed would not be increased during the currency of the Settlement ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not aware of any such understanding.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

172 [XLIV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state on what basis the rate of the water-cess is determined and whether there is any fixity of demand of the rate for any definite period ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The rate of the water-cess is determined on the principle that a fair commercial value should be put upon all water supplied, provided that the price charged is not so great as to bar its use on lands which really derive benefit from canal irrigation. There is no obligation on Government to leave a margin to the landlord to enable him to increase the rent. As a consequence it follows that the Government cannot guarantee the fixity of the charge ; at the same time it will not be arbitrarily or capriciously altered or otherwise than on fair and reasonable grounds.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

173 [XLV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that for several years village officers in some zamindaris—Munsifs, Karnams, Taliaries—were paid for their services from the Ryotwari Village Service Fund ; and will Government be pleased to order that the amount so spent be charged to the Provincial Funds and refunded to the Village Service Fund ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As to the second part, it is not proposed to pay from Provincial Funds the charges already incurred.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

174 [XLVI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer * of Government at the last meeting of the Council about the Headmastership of the Mangalore College, is it a fact that Mr. Moss is only a graduate of the Madras University and not of any English University, and was the sum of Rs. 65,000 received by Government on the understanding that the Headmastership would be reserved for a graduate of an English University ?

* 128 *supra*, p. 50.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes," and I must express to the Honourable Member my regret that my answer † on this subject at last meeting of the Council was misleading. Mr. Moss, though an Englishman and educated in England, took a Madras University degree. So far, however, as Government is aware no objection was raised by the inhabitants of South Canara, to the appointment of Mr. Moss, on the grounds that he did not possess an English degree. With regard to that portion of the question which relates to the terms upon which Government received the donation of Rs. 65,000, copies of G.O., dated 21st September 1865, No. 264, and G.O., dated 15th October 1866, No. 295, Educational, will be supplied to the Honourable Member and I will also quote the remarks of the late Acting Director of Public Instruction on the subject ; he said :

† *Ibid.*

"It will be seen from the correspondence recorded in G.O., No. 264, Educational, dated 21st September 1865, that the inhabitants of South Canara subscribed Rs. 65,000 towards the establishment of a Provincial school at Mangalore and that they expressed a desire to have a well-educated gentleman and a graduate of an English University at the head of the school. The subscription was accepted by Government and a Provincial school was established. Though Government did not expressly bind itself to the condition that an English graduate should be head of the institution, yet it would appear from the fact that the services of an English graduate in the person of Mr. Ormsby were, on the usual covenant, engaged for the Principalship of the institution and that, when he severed his connection with the department, another gentleman of English education, viz., Mr. Moss, was selected, that Government recognized the moral obligation of complying with the wishes of the people of South Canara. In any case, it will, I think, be admitted that, as remarked by the Collector, there was an implied promise on the part of Government to comply with the condition on which the sum of Rs. 65,000 was subscribed. It was in consideration of these circumstances, that Mr. Grigg recommended the retention of this institution by Government, when he proposed to hand over the other second-grade colleges to local bodies (paragraph 14 of Mr. Grigg's letter, recorded in G.O., No. 250, Educational, dated 18th April 1885). Up to 31st March 1893, the date of Mr. Moss's retirement, the institution had a permanent English-educated Principal, though occasionally, during the absence of Mr. Moss on leave or his employment on other duty, native graduates filled the place temporarily."

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

175 [XLVII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the memorials submitted by the inhabitants of Masulipatam, and the resolutions of the Kistna District Conference passed in June 1893 and 1894, praying the Government to reconfer the privilege of electing Municipal Councillors and the Municipal Chairman of the town of Masulipatam ; and will Government be pleased to favourably consider the question of granting the privilege to this important town in the district ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The resolution of the Kistna District Conference, stated in the question to have been passed in 1894, has not been found in the records of the Government Office. Before the receipt of the Honourable Member's question and subsequently to the issue of the G.O., 1st October 1894, the question of the re-grant of the elective privilege to the Masulipatam Municipality was again carefully considered in communication with the Collector and it was decided that, as it was unlikely that the measure would lead to an improvement in the Municipal administration, it was not advisable to adopt it for the present. The matter will be reconsidered when the administration report of the current year comes up for review.

10. MEETING OF THE 15th FEBRUARY 1895.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

* **176** [I] *Question.*—(1) What is the number of non-official members of the District Board of Nellore, village munsifs being considered *officials* ? * Same as 137 *supra*, p. 67.

(2) Is it true that the Raja of Venkatagiri is not represented on it for a whole year or longer, and, if so, is the Government prepared to make arrangements for the representation of the Raja on the board ?

(3) How many of the Raja's officials are members of the taluk boards of Nayudupet and Ongole which are in his zamindari ?

(4) Is it true that the Raja represented to the President that he must be represented in the local boards, and, if so, is it true that the President of the District Board has declined to comply with his request ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(1) Twelve ; but I may point out that, with reference to section 3 (viii) and section 12 of Act V of 1884, village headmen are not officials.

(2) The Diwan of Venkatagiri was formerly a member of the Nayudupet Taluk Board and the Nellore District Board, but was not re-appointed in 1893 for the reason that he had only attended 4 out of the 36 meetings of the former and 10 out of the 42 meetings of the latter which had been held during his three years' term of service. On the recommendation of the Collector the Diwan has been recently re-appointed a member of the District Board.

(3) One is a member of the Ongole Taluk Board. There are none on the Nayudupet Taluk Board.

(4) (To the first part of the question). Yes.

(To the second part of the question). No.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

177 [II] *Question.*—Referring to my question † put at the last Council meeting and the answer given by the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss regarding the introduction of elective system into Adóni Municipality, I wish to know whether it is a fact that the memorial submitted by the rate-payers of the Adóni Municipality contained signatures of important merchants and cotton press owners, amongst whom Mr. Strachan, the European Agent of Messrs. Dymes & Co., was one ? † 135 *supra*, p. 56.

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that water project is introduced into that municipality and water-rate is to be charged very soon ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that in the District Municipalities Act applicable to Bombay Presidency, there is a provision that in all towns where municipalities are introduced even for the first time the rate-payers enjoy elective privileges of electing councillors to the extent of one-fourth of the number ?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that English education has made greater progress in Madras Presidency than in Bombay ?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will His Excellency be pleased to reconsider the memorial and grant elective system not only to Adóni Municipality, but to all other municipalities which have been in existence for more than five years ?

(*d*) Will His Excellency be pleased to give the reason for refusing to comply with the request of the Adóni memorialists for the introduction of elective system ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Three memorials from the inhabitants of Adóni have been received since December 1893. Among the signatures appended to the last of them appear the names of Mr. Strachan and of certain persons describing themselves as agents of the owners of cotton presses. Among these is one of the Honourable Member's own agents.

(*a*) The Adóni water-works are now under execution. It is proposed to levy the water-tax in order to enable the Municipal Council to pay off the loan taken from Government on account of the water-supply project.

(*b*) I beg to refer the Honourable Member to the District Municipalities Act applicable to the Bombay Presidency.

(*c*) The Government is unable to answer this question. The statistics of education in the different Provinces of India have been published and are available to the Honourable Member and he must form his own opinion.

(*d*) The petitioners' request was not complied with because the Collector reported that he could not conscientiously say that he considered that the time had yet come when it could be safely granted; that, in order to swell the number of names attached to the petition [meaning the two petitions of December 1893], the authors of it had added the names of some persons who were dead; and that, when petitioners could descend to such practices as these, they proved themselves unworthy of being entrusted with the duties and privileges appertaining to self-government.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

178 [III] *Question.*—Is it a fact that a recommendation was made by the Collector of Salem asking the Government to appoint a paid Chairman for the Salem Municipality?

Will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of the Collector's letter on the Editors' Table or give reasons which induced the Collector to make such a recommendation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Yes, the Collector pointed out that in so large a town as Salem it was quite impossible for a Chairman who had other avocations to attend to, to keep the municipal administration up to the standard which is now expected. The Collector's letter cannot be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

179 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether His Excellency's attention was drawn to the letter published in the *Hindu* of the 1st instant, signed by a ryot in the Erode taluk, complaining of the apathy of the Sub-Collector of Coimbatore district who did not make immediate enquiries regarding the insufficiency of water for the lands on which the crops were withering for want of proper precautions?

(*b*) Whether any and what steps have been taken to afford timely help to the ryots in question, if a telegram was received by His Excellency as stated in the said letter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Gibson :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government was drawn to a letter in the *Hindu* signed "A ryot."

(*b*) A telegram was received by Government; but as the petitioner did not appear to have addressed either the Collector or the Board of Revenue, he was referred to the Petition rules which require that relief should be sought from these authorities before appealing to Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

180 [V] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased, after, if necessary, ascertaining from the Collector of Tanjore, to state the annual single-crop revenue for each taluk of the Tanjore district?

(1) according to the old settlement;

(2) according to the recommendation of the Settlement Deputy Commissioner;

(3) according to the recommendation of the Board of Revenue;

(4) according to the final order of Government; and

(5) as levied for the last fasli.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—A statement which has been prepared by the Board of Revenue from information available in its office and which furnishes the statistics asked for in items (1), (2), (3) and (5) of his question will be furnished to the Honourable Member. It is not possible to give the information asked for in item 4 as the final orders of Government merely directed that the total increase in ryotwar revenue for the whole district should not exceed eleven lakhs of rupees exclusive of water-rate, second-crop charge and cesses. The actual increase amounts to 12·71 lakhs, but this includes a large sum due to transfer of irrigated "dry" lands to "wet." Until the Deputy Commissioner sends in his final report, the exact increase due to this cause cannot be stated.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

181 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Settlement in Tanjore has not as yet given hise ndorsements on settlement objection petitions presented in January and February 1894?

And, if so, will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the number of petitions on which endorsements have not yet been sent to the parties concerned?

(*b*) Will the Government be also pleased to ascertain and state the number of petitions disposed of by Mr. Clerk as Deputy Commissioner during the last month of his stay in Tanjore?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on the subject. The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that any one who may not have received an answer to his objection petition is at liberty to represent the matter to the Revenue Board.

(*b*) It has been ascertained from the Board that Mr. Clerk left the district on the 9th October 1894 and that he appears to have disposed of 350 petitions in that month and of 2,444 petitions in September.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

182 [VII] *Question.*—Is it true that for putting up a new embankment between the rivers Mudikondan and Tirumalairayan in the Kumbakónam taluk of the Tanjore district private lands were taken possession of by the Department of Public Works some three years ago without the permission of the owners or without any declaration having been made as required by the Land Acquisition Act either prior to the occupation or since?

The Hon'ble Mr. Gibson :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject. A reference has been made to the Superintending Engineer.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

183 [VIII] *Question.*—In regard to the answer * given by the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss at a recent meeting of the Council about the criminal administration in Salem, is there any special reason why the report of the District Magistrate on a petition "covering much the same ground" as my questions and the order of Government thereon should not be placed on the table for the information of the public? If not, will Government be pleased to place the same on the table?

* 122 *supra*, p. 46.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of this question is "yes." The second part therefore requires no reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

184 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Madras Government in its instructions, dated 15th October 1799, directed the District Collectors to include the village service inams in the assets of Zamindars and tax them for permanent peishcush?

(*b*) Can the Government say whether the instructions were carried out or not?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the statements made by the Settlement officers including service *maniams* in zamindaris showing the resources of the permanently-settled estates in calculating the peishcush?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The instructions referred to are far from clear, but it is possible that the construction placed upon them by the Honourable Member is correct.

(*b*) Without a detailed examination of the statistics, it is impossible to say in what manner the instructions of 1799 in regard to village *maniams* were applied in each individual case.

(*c*) The information is not available in a form to admit of its being laid upon the Council table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

185 [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the total amounts of road-cess collected in this Presidency for the last five years? Will the Government be pleased to state also the amounts spent (1) in the constructions of new roads and (2) in the repairs and reforms of roads out of that amount during the same period?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—The information asked for is available to the public in the Annual Local Fund Reports and Reviews.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

186 [XI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of summary suits and applications for sales under Act VIII of 1865 that took up between three and six, the number that took up between six and nine months and the number that took up between nine and twelve months and the number that took up more than twelve months for disposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—Complete information is not available. Such as there is will be found in the Annual Civil Justice Reports which are available to the public.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

187 [XII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any rule that the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University should be a Judge of the High Court of Madras; if not, will His Excellency the Governor appoint other deserving Members of the Senate to the post of the Vice-Chancellor, as it is the practice in the Calcutta and Bombay Universities?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—There is no such rule; as regards future appointments I am not prepared to make any announcement.

11. MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH 1895.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

188 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the whole contract for the road repairs in Malabar was given to one European for three years ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Collector of Cochin made a suggestion that the A system was not working well and must be abolished, and that the work can be managed thereby more cheaply and efficiently ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some of the members assembled at the meeting to consider this suggestion expressed their opinion that the condition of roads repaired by the European contractor was not satisfactory, and they strongly opposed to the contract being given to one individual ?

(*d*) Is it true that no previous notice was given to the members and that the subject of A system of contract was introduced into the meeting suddenly ?

(*e*) If the Government is satisfied that no regular tenders were called for and that some of the members were opposed to the A system, will the Government be pleased to cancel the resolution confirming the contract to one individual and direct the Board to invite tenders in a regular way, as is done in all other districts, dividing road work into sections or divisions to induce small contractors to offer cheaper rates ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Government has no information and does not consider it necessary to call for any, as the subject referred to is entirely one for the Local Board to deal with.

(*e*) Supposing the statements made in the question to be correct, the Government has no authority to cancel the resolution of the District Board, if one in the terms alleged was passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

189 [II] *Question.*—Referring to the small article in the *Hindu* of the 22nd instant, reporting an accident by explosion of a blind shell whereby nine persons were killed and two were seriously injured, will the Government be pleased to inquire how this blind shell was left behind at the target, and will the Government be pleased to issue stringent instructions to the military and police authorities to see that no such blind shells are in future left behind after each target practice is over, to prevent ignorant villagers falling victims to such accidents which appear to have occurred more than once.

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Government much regrets the occurrence of this unfortunate accident by which two or three men are reported to have been killed and several injured. The unexploded shell was picked up about 3,000 yards from the target and must have escaped the notice of the search parties, who are sent out regularly after practice to look for such shells ; but as the range of the guns is very great and the ground beyond the target is jungle covered with prickly thorn bushes, it will be understood that it is extremely difficult for search parties to find every unexploded shell.

Notices in Tamil, warning the public of the danger of tampering with shells that may be picked up, were distributed by the police in the villages adjacent to the range and the villagers were likewise warned by the Revenue Inspector not to touch such shells but to cover them by placing earth over them if found.

The military authorities will be asked to suggest any further precautions that they may consider might be adopted with the object of averting such unfortunate accidents as that now under notice.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

190 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the *Madras Mail* of the 21st instant, complaining against the nuisance caused by fishermen disturbing the waters of the Cooum, etc.

(*b*) If so, what measures have been taken or intended to be taken to prevent fishing in the said river and of the sale of fish caught in the said river on sanitary grounds ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the article referred to.

(*b*) A commission which was specially appointed in 1870 to report upon the subject, and of which the then Sanitary Commissioner and the Secretary to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, were members, found that there was no evidence to warrant the assumption that fish caught in the Cooum were more noxious to health, when eaten, than similar fish taken from water free from sewage. There appears, however, to be less certainty that the disturbance of the bed of the river caused by fishermen wading in it is not harmful to the public health, and the Government will again take the matter into consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

191 [IV] *Question.*—Will your Excellency be pleased to state what reply was given to the memorial submitted by the ryots of Goomsur and Suradá taluks on your Excellency's visit to the Ganjám district in October 1894 and published in the *Hindu* of the 25th January 1895 ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The petition was forwarded to the Collector of Ganjám for report. Orders will be passed when the report, which the Collector has been asked to expedite, has been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

192 [V] *Question.*—(1) Is it a fact that Government was pleased to order the closing of the Waltair orphanage (supported by public subscriptions and a grant from Government) and the sale of the buildings thereof, and will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the correspondence which led to the same ?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state the authority under which such orders were issued and why the wishes of the subscribers to the said orphanage were not consulted ?

(3) Is it a fact that the said orphanage was founded about ninety years ago by private individual efforts and was the only institution of its kind between Madras and Calcutta, and that when it was closed last year, it was self-supporting with a funded capital of Rs. 3,000 and odd ?

(4) Is it a fact that no reply has yet been given to the memorial of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Community of the Northern Circars submitted in October last to your Excellency through the Collector of Vizagapatam praying for its restoration and that the Rajahmundry Circle of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association promised to the

Collector of Vizagapatam a contribution of Rs. 1,000 towards the cost of the repairs of the orphanage buildings and that, in spite thereof, the buildings were ordered to be sold ?

(5) In view of the aforesaid circumstances and the growing importance of Waltair as the head-quarters of the East Coast Railway, will your Excellency's Government be pleased to favourably consider the question of re-opening the orphanage ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(1) The Government did order the closing of the orphanage ; the reasons for the step will be found in the correspondence read in G.O., dated 29th June 1894, No. 482, Educational, which has already been placed at the disposal of the Press. From the papers it will be seen that in October 1893 the Committee stated as follows :—" The orphanage is now in such bad repair that it has been condemned, and it is believed that it will be actually unsafe in the event of very heavy rain. The buildings, in fact, are so bad that it will be necessary to pull them down entirely and rebuild them." The Committee also said that, now that there is railway communication between the Northern Circars and Madras, the *raison d'être* for an orphanage at Waltair had considerably diminished, if it had not disappeared altogether.

(2) " The Government acted upon the suggestion of the Committee of the Orphanage which was supported by the Collector and the Acting Director of Public Instruction. The largest subscriber to the institution was Government which contributed yearly a sum equal to the total amount of the contribution from other sources. "

(3) The institution seems to have come into existence in 1817 and to have been supported at first by voluntary contributions. When it was closed it was certainly not self-supporting ; the total receipts during 1893-94 from private subscriptions, fees and petty miscellaneous sources being only Rs. 2,139 against an expenditure of Rs. 3,411. In the early part of the century, the orphanage received assistance from Government on more than one occasion ; from 1858 to 1870 the Government contributed annually a sum equal to twice the amount obtained from private subscriptions and, from 1870 until the closure of the school, the yearly grant by the State was equal to the said amount. The so-called " funded capital " consisted of a balance in hand at the end of 1893-94 amounting to Rs. 3,587, which was of course insufficient for repairing the buildings and meeting ordinary expenses.

(4) It is a fact that no reply has been sent to the memorial. The memorial has not up to now been traced in the Government office. Enquiries are being made on the subject. A telegram was received in September last from the Chairman of the Rajahmundry Circle, Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association of Southern India, and he was told, in reply, to address the Collector. The Government knows nothing about the alleged offer of Rs. 1,000 but, as I have already mentioned, the Committee considered that the building would have to be re-constructed throughout if the institution were retained.

(5) The Government is not prepared to consider the question of re-opening the orphanage.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

* 169 *supra*, p. 68.

193 [VI] *Question.*—(1) With reference to the answer * of Government that no reports were called for from the Board of Revenue or the Member in charge of the Settlement Department in connection with the enhancement of the water-cess, is it a fact that a report was submitted by the Member of the Settlement Department and will Government be pleased to place it on the table ?

(2) Is it a fact that your Excellency's Government was at first not in favour of the enhancement of the cess, and will Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence of your Excellency's Government with the Government of India as requested * by me at the meeting of the Council held on the 20th November last ?

* 125 (5) *supra*, p. 48.

(3) With reference to the answer † of Government that " the rate of the water-cess is determined on the principle that a fair commercial value should be put on all water supplied," will Government be pleased to state what it means by " a fair commercial value ? "

† 172 *supra*, p. 68.

(4) With reference to the recent notification published in the Kistna and Gódávari District Gazettes Extraordinary on or about the 20th February 1895 cancelling the enhancement of the water-rate for the *current fasli only*, and ordering the levy of a general water-rate from the next fasli not exempting land not irrigated for five consecutive years, will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the order on the subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(1) No report regarding the enhancement of the water-rate in the Gódávari and Kistna districts was submitted by the Member in charge of the Settlement Department before the issue of the Government order enhancing the rate. Correspondence has passed subsequently between the Government and the Board which the Government declines to place on the table.

(2) The Government regrets it is unable to answer the first part of the question or to lay upon the table the correspondence referred to.

(3) "A fair commercial value " is what the supply of water is worth in the open market, but it does not follow that Government would always charge its full value thus gauged.

(4) A copy of G.O., No. 774, dated 19th February 1895, and of G.O., No. 870, dated 26th February 1895, will be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

194 [VII] *Question.*—(1) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the report of the District Collector of Kistna recommending the withdrawal of the privilege of electing the chairman and municipal councillors of the town of Masulipatam, and is it a fact that the request of townsmen and municipal councillors to be supplied with a copy of the said report was refused by Government ?

(2) Was any opportunity afforded to the said municipal council to meet the charges on which the franchise was withdrawn by Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(1) The Government is not prepared to lay on the table a copy of the report referred to. No application from the inhabitants or municipal councillors of Masulipatam for a copy of the report can be traced in the Government office.

(2) No. The Government appears to have considered that the Collector's report showed conclusively that the maladministration of municipal affairs rendered the step which he recommended absolutely essential.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

195 & 196 *Questions*—**195** [VIII].—With reference to the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss's answer to my question No. XXXV * put at the meeting of this Council held on the 22nd January whether, as more than seven weeks have now elapsed since the receipt by Government of the letter of the High Court referred to in the said answer, it is proposed by Government to take any action with a view to obtaining the appointment of a fifth Puisne Judge ?

* 163 *supra*, p. 66.

196 [IX].—With reference to the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss's answer to my question No. XXXVI † put at the meeting of this Council held on 22nd January whether, as sufficient time has now elapsed for the consideration of the communication from the High Court referred to in the said answer, Government are now prepared to say whether they have it in contemplation to recommend the increase of the limit of jurisdiction of the City Civil Court and, if so, to what extent ?

† 164 *supra*, p. 66.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

195 } *Answer*—No decision has yet been arrived at in regard to these
196 } subjects.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

197 [X] *Question.*—With reference to the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss's answer to my question No. XXXVIII ‡ put at the meeting of this Council held on 22nd January whether the High Court has given an opinion as to the expediency of substituting the scale of fees prescribed in the Court Fees Act for the scale now in force in the High Court ? if so, will Government be pleased to state what that opinion is and whether an assurance can be given that no change will be made which will tend to increase taxation to suitors ?

‡ 166 *supra*, p. 67.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The matter is touched upon in the correspondence now before Government, but it is understood that the High Court does not intend to address Government regarding the introduction of the Court Fees Act scale of fees until Government has passed orders on the question of raising the jurisdiction of the City Civil Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. ARBUTHNOT :—

198 [XI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state why no reply has been sent to the letter of the Chamber of Commerce, dated 3rd November 1894, having reference to important changes which it was rumoured were contemplated on the Original Side of the High Court and asking that the Chamber might be given an opportunity of expressing its views before any definite or irrevocable action was taken in the matter ; also its letter dated 28th January 1895 requesting that the Chamber might be favoured with a copy of the communication addressed to the Madras Government by the Judges of the High Court and referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss in his reply § to the questions put by myself at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 22nd January, and a copy of the Judges' reply to the reference from Government as to the expediency of substituting the scale of fees prescribed in the Court Fees Act for the scale now in force in the High Court ?

§ 163 and 164 *supra* p. 66.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The reply to the letter of the 3rd November from the Chamber of Commerce has now issued ; the letter of the 28th January is under consideration along with other correspondence relating to the raising of the jurisdiction of the City Civil Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

199 [XII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin to question VI * put by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th January 1894, has Government received from the Board of Revenue any report as to whether the allotment of communal lands on patta should be absolutely forbidden ? If so, will the Government be pleased to place the report at the disposal of the Press ?

* 46 *supra*, p. 18.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The report has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

200 [XIII] *Question.*—With reference to the answers of the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin to question VIII † put by me at the same meeting, will the Government be pleased to state whether plans and estimates for the proposed office for the Collector of Tanjore have been prepared and sanctioned, and what further steps have been taken towards the construction of the requisite office building ?

† 48 *supra*, p. 19.

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—Plans and estimates for the Collector's office at Tanjore have been prepared and submitted to Government. The details are now under examination in the Chief Engineer's office and the estimate will be re-submitted to Government shortly and, if sanctioned, arrangements will then be made for allotting funds for the work.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

201 [XIV] *Question.*—With reference to the answers of the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss to the question III (*a*) ‡ put by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 7th March 1894, will the Government be pleased to state what has become of the scheme then before Government for the supply of water for the town of Coimbatore ?

‡ 62 (*a*) *supra*, p. 25.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—It having been found that, as the law at present stands, it is impossible to finance the scheme, the question of providing a water-supply for Coimbatore is standing over, pending the passing of the Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act, which provides for special taxation in view to enable water-supply and drainage schemes to be carried out.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

202 [XV] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of the Hon'ble Mr. Grose to the questions IV (*a*) and (*b*) § put by me at the same meeting, has Government received the report called for regarding the manner in which petitions presented to the Settlement officer in Tanjore have been disposed of ? and, if so, will the Government be pleased to place it at the disposal of the Press ?

§ 63 *supra*, p. 25.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The report referred to was duly received and disposed of in G.O., Mis. No. 1493, dated 13th April 1894. A copy of this order will be furnished to the Honourable Member ; but Government declines to place the report at the disposal of the Press.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

203 [XVI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of Government to question VIII (*c*) * put by me at the same meeting, has Government received any report from the Inspector-General of Jails as to whether criminals who should have been placed in close prisons have been permitted to work in association with other convicts ? and, if so, will the Government be pleased to place the same at the disposal of the Press ?

* 67 (*c*) *supra*, p. 27.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has received a report on the subject from the Inspector-General of Prisons and the Honourable Member can have a copy of it if he so desires ; but the Government does not consider it worth while to print the report and place it at the disposal of the Press.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

204 [XVII] *Question.*—Has Government received the final report of the Settlement Department on the new settlement of the Tanjore district ? and, if so, will it be pleased to place the same at the disposal of the Press ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The report referred to has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

205 [XVIII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of Government to question XXIII-(1) † put by me at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd January 1895, has Government received the information referred to, and, if so, will it be pleased to place the same at the disposal of the Press ?

† 151 *supra*, p. 61.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Yes. The information will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

206 [XIX] *Question.*—Has Government received any report on the cost of strengthening the banks of the main irrigation channels in Tanjore referred to in the answer to question No. XXVI ‡ put by me at the same meeting ? If so, will the Government be pleased to place the same at the disposal of the Press ?

‡ 154 *supra*, p. 63.

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—No change of practice has been made ; during the floods of last year an insignificant amount of temporary work appears to have been done by the inhabitants of their own accord ; but this is a common occurrence and does not imply any change in practice.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

207 [XX] *Question.*—Has Government received any report on the subject of tope lands referred to in the answer to my question XXX (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) § put at the same meeting ? and, if so, will the Government be pleased to place it at the disposal of the Press ?

§ 158 *supra*, p. 64.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The report has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

208 [XXI] *Question.*—With reference to question VII * put by me at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, has Government received any answer to the reference made to the Superintending Engineer of Tanjore regarding certain lands taken up by the Public Works Department for a river embankment in the Kumbakónam taluk ? and, if so, will the Government be pleased to place the same at the disposal of the Press ?

* 182 *supra*, p. 78.

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—In the particular case in question there was considerable delay in obtaining the proper transfer of the land, and the work being urgent the land was entered upon before formal acquisition ; there is no reason to believe that the owners raised any objection to this course. The reason for the great delay in obtaining the transfer of the land is not at present clear and further inquiries are being made on this point. It appears to have been mainly due to the difficulty of procuring proper information from the village officials.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

209 [XXII] *Question.*—If Government has not received the information called for in all or any of the previous questions, will Government be pleased to ascertain and state the reasons for the same ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—I may say generally that the information asked for by the Honourable Member necessitated references to officials on whom the pressure of work falls heavily : without an extra establishment, which is not at the disposal of Government, it is found impossible to elicit information and tabulate the complicated figures required by the Honourable Member with greater expedition.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

210 [XXIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether in the re-settlement of the Trichinopoly district it is proposed to revise or retain the classification and grouping of lands in regard to irrigation as made at the last settlement ? If the former, will the Government be pleased to explain the reason for the revision ? and will the Government be pleased to place its orders on the subject at the disposal of the Press ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The principles on which the re-settlement of the Trichinopoly district is to be conducted are now under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

211 [XXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place at the disposal of the Press the papers relating to the trial of the money order system as means of payment by the ryot of the assessment due to Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to a question † on this subject asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Subba Rao Pantulu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 9th April 1894.

† 76 *supra*, p. 32.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

212 [XXV] *Question.*—Has the Government before it a proposal for the levy of the professional tax in the municipality of Coimbatore? Is it true that a Sub-Committee of the Council has, on consideration, come to the conclusion that the levy of the tax is unnecessary? and will the Government be pleased to place the Sub-Committee's report and the report of the Collector of Coimbatore on the subject at the disposal of the Press before passing final orders on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Government has not at present under consideration the question of imposing the arts tax in Coimbatore. The latest information on the subject will be found in G.O., dated 16th February 1895, No. 254 M., which has been placed at the disposal of the Press. As regards the matter referred to in the remainder of the Honourable Member's question, Government has no information.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

213 [XXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government state—

(1) whether it is in their contemplation to employ experienced and trained Police Indian Inspectors as Assistant Superintendents of Police;

(2) whether the Government has submitted any scheme to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State to employ Indians as Assistant Superintendents;

(3) whether the Right Honourable the Secretary of State has given his approval to any scheme, and if it has been sanctioned, when, and

(4) will the Government be pleased to lay all the papers connected therewith before the public?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The detailed rules for the future recruitment of the higher ranks of the Police Department will shortly be made public; they are now under reference to the Government of India in regard to a few minor points.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

214 [XXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the district of Tinnevelly prohibitory assessments were levied on natham sites? If so, whether it has authorized the Collector to do so? Whether any suits were filed against the Government for the refund of the prohibitory assessments, and, if so, how many suits? Whether the Government has received any memorial from the inhabitants of the taluk of Ambásamudram, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state how they have disposed of them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Government is not in a position to give a complete answer. The Honourable Member is requested to repeat his question at a future meeting * meanwhile the necessary inquiries will be made.

* infra, p. 89.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

215 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Paymaster suspended the monthly stipend of Her Highness the Nawab Begam of Carnatic, and whether he has received any instructions from the Government for so doing? If this was done without any instructions from the Government, has the Government taken notice of it?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Paymaster, Carnatic Stipends, on his own responsibility, withheld payment of the December stipend of Rs. 6,100 of Her Highness Nawab Khair-un-nisa Begam Sahiba, pending a reply from the Committee appointed for the management of Her Highness's affairs to a communication made by him regarding claims against Her Highness. On reporting the fact to Government, His Excellency the Governor in Council directed him to arrange for the early payment of the stipend in full.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

216 [XXIX] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the procedure of Mr. Moberly, the Acting Collector of Malabar, at a recent meeting of the District Board (reported in the *Hindu* of 22nd February 1895) in reference to what is known as the A system of road contract in the district of Malabar? Will the Government be pleased to call upon him for an explanation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The attention of the Government has been drawn to the article by the Honourable Member's question. The Government sees no sufficient reason for calling upon Mr. Moberly for an explanation.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

217 [XXX] *Question.*—What is the amount of the contract under the A
n for the district of Malabar? Is it a fact that the contractors in North and
are bei Malabar are Europeans? Was the contract under this system ever given to
are una in Malabar?
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If so, w
to stop

e Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the points alluded to and, as they refer to matters entirely within the discretion of the local boards, does not propose to call for any.

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A Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

218 [XXXI] *Question.*—In view to the alleged universal complaint in Malabar
the A system of road contract and the alleged extremely unsatisfactory
ion of the roads maintained under that system and the alleged waste of public
oney caused by it, will Government be pleased to disallow its continuance and order
he introduction of the tender system?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no power to interfere in a matter in regard to which a discretion vests by law in local bodies.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

219 [XXXII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter, dated 18th November 1894, from Mr. Moberly to a Deputy Magistrate published in the *Madras Standard* of 23rd February 1895? Is the Government aware that that letter was considered by the High Court "injudicious"? Will the Government call upon the District Magistrate to explain why he thought it necessary to have this simple assault case tried by a first-class Magistrate instead of by an ordinary third-class Magistrate and why he should have taken the trouble of officially intimating to the Deputy Magistrate his personal opinion of the character of the accused?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the letter in question by the Honourable Member's question. The Honourable Member from the wording of his question has apparently overlooked the fact that Mr. Moberly wrote to the Deputy Magistrate as Collector and Agent to the Court of Wards, not as District Magistrate. If the article in the *Madras Standard* is correct in stating that the High Court characterised Mr. Moberly's letter as injudicious, Government has only to remark that it agrees with the High Court, but sees no reason to take any action in the matter.

12. MEETING OF THE 8TH APRIL 1895.

The Hon'ble RAO BAHADUR SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

220 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that the later or winter crops in majority of the villages of Bellary, Rayadrug and other taluks have been a total failure for want of timely rains ?

(*b*) Are any reports received from the Collector of the Bellary district to this effect recommending grant of remissions ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information received by Government is to the effect that cotton and white cholam have not prospered in the taluks of Hospet, Adóni, Alur, Bellary and Rayadrug, but that the failure of the later crops has not been serious or extensive. The price of cholum has shown a downward tendency since November.

(*b*) No report has been received from the Collector recommending the grant of remission.

The Hon'ble RAO BAHADUR SABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—

221 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that collections of land revenue are being made vigorously from the ryots whose crops have been a failure and who are unable to meet the demand in consequence, and who are driven to the necessity of selling cattle, etc., to meet the demands ?

(*b*) Is it the intention of Government to grant these ryots any remissions ? If so, will the Government be pleased to wire their decision to the Collector of Bellary to stop coercive measures and suspend collection from them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is not aware that collections are being enforced with undue severity. The monthly statements of collections show that the percentage of collections to demand has been smaller in this district than in most other districts.

(*b*) Remissions on wet land will be given and will be regulated by the rules laid down in this behalf and the Government does not see that the Collector requires any special instructions in regard to remissions on either wet or dry land or as regards suspension of collections.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

222 [III] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether it has issued any instructions in accordance with the resolution of the Government of India on forest administration published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* dated 20th October 1894 ? And will Government be pleased to place the same on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The circular from the Government of India referred to by the Honourable Member was, on receipt, communicated to the Board of Revenue for information and guidance. Some further correspondence has since taken place with the Government of India respecting the interpretation to be placed on certain of the instructions embodied in the circular, and orders will shortly issue on these points.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

223 [IV] *Question.*—Is there any special reason why District Munsifs should not be permitted to have the same length of recess as District and Subordinate Judges, who are allowed two months' recess ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is not aware whether there is any special reason for the difference. Under section 30 of Act III of 1873, the High Court is the authority by which the length of the recess is determined.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

224 [V] *Question.*—Does the scheme of the Provincial Service in the Public Works Department afford any prospects of promotion to Sub-Engineers of the first and second grades of approved ability and merit?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Provincial Service scheme provides for the promotion of men of the Upper Subordinate class who will be ordinarily Sub-Engineers chosen for their ability and merit. After an officer has been appointed to the Provincial establishment, he will belong to the general graded establishment of Engineers and will thereafter, if qualified, rise with his contemporaries.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

225 [VI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether it has, according to the instructions of the Government of India, published, for the information of the public, "the initial standard schedule of prices with reference to which future revisions of settlement are to be regulated" in order "that certainty of assessment might become one of the inherent attributes of agricultural property," and, if not, will Government be pleased to state when it proposes to publish "the rules regarding the revision of assessments" ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—No instructions of the kind indicated in the question have been enjoined on this Government by the Government of India.

In 1883 certain suggestions on the subject were made by the Government of India, but in 1885 the Secretary of State disapproved of the policy of laying down hard-and-fast rules binding future Governments as to future settlements. The Government is therefore precluded from laying down any rules that would have this effect.

The preparation of a schedule of prices is the preliminary to every settlement, and this schedule will always form an important factor in subsequent revisions. But in the course of years the staples, the prices of which are recorded in the schedules, may disappear or assume quite different relative values, and other unforeseen economic changes may arise ; and it would be therefore impolitic to stereotype these schedules as the sole basis of all future revisions.

In 1894, the Government directed the Board of Revenue to draw up schedules of prices not for immediate publication, but for official use, in order to facilitate future settlements.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

226 [VII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer * of Government given at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd January that it was not considered necessary to consult the Collectors as the Government considered it had all the requisite information about the enhancement of the water-rate, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers containing the said information ? * 169 *supra*, p. 68.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The information is summarized in paragraph 9 of G.O., dated 2nd August 1894, No. 562, of which a copy has been furnished to the Honourable Member ; and the Government does not think that any object would be gained by laying on the table any further papers.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

227 [VIII] *Question.*—In view of the fact that the Waltair Orphanage was an aided and not a Government institution and that the wishes of the subscribers thereto were not consulted before it was ordered to be closed, will Government be pleased to afford an opportunity to the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian community of the Northern Circars to repair the buildings and re-open the institution, and will Government be pleased to order that the sale of the Orphanage buildings should, in the meantime, be stopped ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—As I have already stated †, the Government is not prepared to consider the question of re-opening the Orphanage. † 192 (5) *supra*, p. 78

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

228 [IX] *Question.*—Is it a fact, as stated in a resolution passed at the Kistna District Conference in June 1894, that in the Vinukonda division of the Kistna district prosecutions were instituted under the Arms Act in cases where a renewal of the license was delayed, though applied for before the expiry of the already-subsisting term of the license ? If the Government has no information on the subject, will it be pleased to call for a report in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—No information on the subject seems to have been received by Government and, as any one who considers himself aggrieved can memorialize Government, there appears to be no necessity to call for a report.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

‡ **229** [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the district of Tinnevelly prohibitory assessments were levied on natham sites ? If so, whether it had authorised the Collector to do so ? Whether any suits were filed against the Government for the refund of the prohibitory assessments, and, if so, how many suits ? Whether the Government has received any memorials from the inhabitants of the taluk of Ambásamudram, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state how it has disposed of them ? ‡ Same as 214 *supra*, p. 84.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—It is the fact that in the Tinnevelly district, as elsewhere, prohibitory assessment has been imposed under paragraph 4 of Board's S.O. No. 37 in cases of unauthorized encroachment on village-sites. The Collector has power to do so under the Board's Standing Order, which I have mentioned.

(2) If the Consulting Engineer for Railways is the appellate authority, will the Government be pleased to state the number of appeals submitted to him during the last two years and the number disposed of by him ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Agents of the Railways are the appellate authority in the case of dismissals and degradations ordered by officers under them. Appeals against Agents' decisions can be made to the Board of Directors. The Consulting Engineer for Railways has no power to interfere in such matters.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

238 [XIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state who appointed the present Committee to receive and spend the monthly allowance granted to the Nawab Begam of the Carnatic and under what circumstances and on what conditions the Committee was appointed ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Committee was nominated by Her Highness and approved by Government. It was appointed in August 1894, in consequence of difficulties arising from the dismissal by the Nawab Begam of her agent, Mirza Muhammad Ismail Khan Bahadur. The condition on which the Committee was formed was that the President and Secretary were not in any way to delegate their powers and that the arrangement should, pending the return of Colonel Stewart, the permanent incumbent of the office of Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends, be considered as provisional only.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

239 & 240 *Questions*—**239** [XX].—Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to the Calicut letter published in the *Hindu* of the 15th March 1895, in which it is stated that one Subramaya, the acting second-class Magistrate of Vetat-Pudiangadi, was examined as the chief prosecution witness in calendar cases Nos. 40 and 41 on the file of the Special Assistant Magistrate of Mallapuram, that his evidence was not believed by the Magistrate and that the accused were acquitted ?

240 [XXI].—Will the Government be pleased to call upon the District Magistrate to report what action he has taken, or intends to take, with respect to the said second-class Magistrate whose evidence was not believed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

239 } *Answer.*—The attention of Government has been drawn to the letter
240 } by the question of the Honourable Member. The Government has since carefully considered how far it is advisable that it should take action upon anonymous communications to newspapers and has come to the conclusion that, as a rule, it should not do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

241 [XXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether village service inams measuring 33,081 cawnies in the Dindigul district were, under the directions of the Board of Revenue, included in the assets of the zamindáris by Mr. Hurdis, the Collector, in 1803 and assets to the amount of 10,095 star pagodas leviable from the zamindars ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—I request the Honourable Member to repeat this question.*

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

242 & 243 *Questions*—**242** [XXIII].—Is it a fact that the Government reserved to itself the discretionary power in dealing with lands exempt from payment of public revenue or lands paying only a favourable quit-rent in zamindáris ?

243 [XXIV].—Can the Government say that, under the abovesaid instructions the same kind of discretionary power was reserved by the Government in dealing with service inams by the zamindáris ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

242 } *Answer.*—The Government can only refer the Honourable Member to
243 } the law on the subject alluded to by him which is laid down in Regulation XXV of 1802.

So far as has been ascertained, three suits for the cancelment of such penal charges have been filed since 1887, two of them were dismissed and one was decided in the plaintiff's favour.

Petitions were received from persons living in the Ambásamudram taluk; and, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the petition rules, the petitioners were informed in effect that Government would not entertain their petition until they had first applied to the Board of Revenue, the controlling authority, in respect of the Collector's orders against which they complained and produced copies of the petitions to the local and controlling authorities and of the orders passed thereon by these authorities.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

230 [XI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the actual amount so collected on natham lands during the faslis ending June 1893 and June 1894 in the district of Tinnevelly in general and in the taluk of Ambásamudram in particular?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The accounts furnished to the Board and Government do not distinguish prohibitory assessment charged on natham for that charged on other porambokes and the information is therefore not available.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

231 [XII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what amount of revenue is credited as excess collections for the faslis ending June 1893 and June 1894 in this Presidency, and whether due intimation has been given by means of post-cards to the land-holders as to the amount thus collected? If not, will the Government be pleased to issue orders to the Collectors to give effect to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue for the issue of post-cards?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The amount shown by Collectors as excess collections for each of these faslis was about Rs. 4 lakhs. It is, however, possible that this amount includes certain items of excess collections made in previous years.

The Government is not aware of any rule requiring intimation to be given by post-cards. If the Honourable Member will quote the Board's Proceedings to which he refers, inquiries will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

232 [XIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money realised by the sale of pattas during the last five years? and if the income from this item has been decreasing of late, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—No separate account is maintained of the amount realised by the sale of pattas, but the Board of Revenue will be directed to report on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

233 [XIV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the ryots find it difficult to obtain pattas at the time of jamabandi?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government has no reason to suppose that the ryots find any difficulty in obtaining pattas at the time of jamabandi.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

234 [XV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact the Revenue authorities of the Chingleput district collect from the mirasidars of Utteramerur and adjoining villages As. 3 per acre for the repair of the channel supplying water to the tank of the said village? If so, what is the total amount collected during the last three years and how much of it was spent on the repairs of the channel? Will the Government be pleased to state also whether it has accorded its sanction for this collection, and under what account it is debited?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—A voluntary cess of 3 annas an acre is collected in Utteramerur and four other villages on lands irrigated by the Utteramerur and other tanks for the upkeep of their supply channel.

The levy of this voluntary cess was sanctioned in 1894, but the ryots agreed to contribute with effect from fasli 1302 so that the cess due for three faslis is being collected during the current fasli. Information as to actual collections and expenditure are not yet available, but in February last it was estimated that the collections during the official year just ended would be Rs. 3,000 (Rs. 1,109 on account of fasli 1302, Rs. 1,081 on account of fasli 1303, and the remainder for the first nine months of fasli 1304); and provision was made for an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 during 1894-95 for the upkeep of the channel.

Government has accorded sanction for these collections. They form a separate fund which will be devoted solely to the upkeep of the channel and the works connected therewith. The cess is a voluntary contribution by the ryots for the execution of the repairs which they are bound by custom to execute at their own expense in respect of these irrigation works.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

235 [XVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to the frequent cases of dacoity occurring in the district of Tinnevelly? If so, what steps has the Government taken to put an end to the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The statistics in the police report do not bear out the suggestion that dacoity is especially rife in Tinnevelly. In 1891 seventeen cases only were reported from that district, seven districts returning higher figures; in 1892 there were twenty-eight cases from Tinnevelly, four districts showing larger numbers; in 1893 Tinnevelly took the fourth place but with only sixteen cases. No special measures seem therefore to be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

236 [XVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state when the town of Gudiyáttam, in the district of North Arcot, was constituted into a municipality? and will the Government be pleased to confer upon this town the privilege of electing a portion of the number of municipal councillors?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Gudiyáttam was constituted a municipality in November 1885. The Government is not prepared to confer upon this municipality the elective right.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

237 [XVIII] *Question.*—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state who constitute the appellate authority for the dismissed or degraded servants of the Madras and South Indian Railways?

13. MEETING OF THE 4TH NOVEMBER 1895.

* 149 *supra*, p. 61.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

244 [I] *Question.*—With reference to my question, * asked on the 22nd January, "whether Government sees any objection to deputing Agricultural Inspectors to selected centres to carry out experimental cultivation side by side with the ryot," and the report of the Revenue Board thereon that there are the following objections to the proposal :—

(1) the ryot must be selected,

(2) land adjacent to his must be put at the disposal of Government,

(3) the Agricultural Inspector must be equipped with cattle, agricultural implements and labour,

(4) the nature, value and object of the suggested experiments should be made plain before Government can possibly saddle tax-payers with the cost which such experiments would entail,

whether there is any objection to carrying out the experiments,

(1) if the ryot is selected to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Inspector or any other Government official,

(2) if the land adjacent to his is placed at the disposal of Government,

(3) if cattle, agricultural implements and labour are supplied to him,

on condition that the produce of the land is delivered to the ryot ?

The object is to show that the Government estimate of the cost of cultivation and the produce of the land is incorrect and ought not to be taken as a basis for settlement operations, and in case it turns out to be correct to serve as an object lesson to the ryot.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is of opinion that, even if the objections detailed by the Honourable Member were met, the experiment would be useless as far as regards supplying a basis for settlement operations. To establish such a basis, it would be necessary to have numerous farms under costly supervision in several parts of the district, and the suppliers of the cattle, instruments and labour would have to be impartial and not desirous of proving that the land produced little at a great cost. It is impossible for the Government to guarantee the fulfilment of these conditions.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

245 [II] *Question.*—The Board of Revenue say in their report that the opening of five farms at selected centres with the object of carrying on experiments in agriculture has been sanctioned by Government, and is only held in abeyance for want of funds : will Government be pleased to open at least one farm in Malabar, as the ryots in Malabar are willing to supply land, cattle, agricultural implements and labour for the purposes of experiment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—As to establishing an experimental farm in Malabar, if the Honourable Member will indicate to the Revenue Board a convenient locality where a sufficient parcel of land (say 100 acres) suitable for agricultural experiment can be made available, the proposal to establish a farm will be carefully considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

246 [III] *Question.*—(1) Is it a fact that from the Mysorean conquest of Malabar up to the present time the taluks of Chirakkal, Kottayam and the Kadattanat portion of the modern Kurumbranat taluk have been exempt from the establishment cess, since transformed into the village-cess, and levied in other parts of the district ?

(2) Is the Government aware that the exemption is based on the recognised fact that the assessments, especially on wet and miscellaneous lands in North Malabar, are comparatively heavier than those in South Malabar—a circumstance which formerly influenced the Supervisor and the Second Commissioners not to extend the village-cess to North Malabar—and that this state of things was deliberately continued by Government even when Act IV of 1864 was enacted ?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state in these circumstances the reasons for imposing the village-cess when no corresponding reduction is made in the land revenue in the taluks above referred to ?

(4) Is it a fact that, in addition to the land revenue and the local cess amounting to two annas in the rupee, petty cesses known as (1) Kangâni (കങ്ങാണി), (2) Pattonna (പത്തൊന്ന), (3) Azhikkâpanom (അഴിക്കാപണം), (4) Vittuvâdu (വിത്തുവാട), (5) Talivâram (തളിവാരം), (6) Kayattunellu (കയറനെല്ല), (7) Vêlipanom (വേലിപണം), (8) Vettilakettu (വെറ്റിലകെട്ട), and (9) Kûzhâpattom (കുഴാപാട്ടം), are now levied in North Malabar, and that the village-cess is proposed to be superadded to the above rates?

(5) Will the Government defer the imposition of the village-cess in North Malabar, pending the disposal of the settlement question ? If it is to take effect at once, will the Government consider the propriety of making a corresponding abatement in the land-revenue, admitted to be heavier in North than South Malabar, with a view to equalise the incidence of taxation as fairly as possible ?

(6) Will the Government also consider the expediency of immediately abolishing the nine items of the taxation described in question (4) above ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(1) & (3) What is known in Malabar as the Amshom Service Fund is derived from a cess at the rate of 10 per cent. on the revenue of rice lands in the six southern taluks of the district, which has been levied since the beginning of the century. This cess was not imposed in the taluks of Chirakkal, Kottayam and part of Kurumbranat, on the ground that the assessments in those taluks were heavier than in those of the south. Owing, however, to the great rise in prices in recent years and in consideration of the fact that assessments throughout Malabar are notoriously light, the Government has decided that there is no longer any reason why the land-holders of these taluks in the north of the district should be exempted from contributing to the maintenance of the village service. Orders have been accordingly issued for the introduction of the Village Cess Act into these taluks.

(2) The Government is aware that this statement is made on page 679 of Volume I of Mr. Logan's Manual of Malabar. In the latter portion of this question, the Honourable Member refers apparently to G.O., No. 3028, dated 18th September 1862, in which, on a representation made by the then Collector of Malabar (Mr. Ballard) that rice lands in North Malabar were believed to be more highly assessed than similar lands in South Malabar, the Government deemed it inexpedient to extend to the latter the 10 per cent. cess levied on the former. But it would also appear from Mr. Pelly's letter read in that Government Order that, while the assessment on rice lands in North Malabar was believed to be heavier than in South Malabar, that on dry and garden lands was considered to be lighter, and that it was suggested by Mr. Pelly that, if additional funds were required

for village establishments, they might be raised by a cess which should be imposed not on any particular class of lands, but generally on the whole holding of the ryots. This is the plan now followed. And it may also be noted that whereas the cess is levied in South Malabar at the rate of 10 per cent. that in North Malabar will be levied at less than $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the assessment. Even if the cess levied in the South Malabar taluks be distributed over the entire land revenue, the resulting incidence will be 6·8 per cent. against 4·7 per cent. in the case of the northern taluks.

(4) and (6) Assuming that the petty cesses referred to are of the nature of contribution to village servants, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to section 6 of the Village Cess Act of 1893 which prescribes that—

"On this Act coming into force as provided in section 2 in any district or part of a district, all fees, contributions and allowances collected or demandable for the remuneration of village officers shall absolutely cease and determine.

"Whoever thereafter in such district or part of a district demands, collects or receives such fees, contributions or allowances shall, on conviction before a Magistrate, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 100."

(5) For the reasons given in the answer to the Honourable Member's first question, the Government is not prepared to defer the introduction of the Cess Act, pending the new settlement, nor does Government consider that there is any ground for making a corresponding reduction in the land revenue demand.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

247 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what instructions it has given to the Engineer specially deputed to prepare a scheme for improving the irrigation of the Tanjore district ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—(1) The Assistant Engineer deputed to prepare a scheme for improving the irrigation of the Tanjore district is working under the orders of the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, and the general lines on which the project is to be drawn are shown in the office-note No. 290, dated 7th November 1894, printed in Proceedings of Government, No. 3292 W., dated 29th December 1894, a copy of which will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

(2) Before deciding on the description and details of the works required to be carried out, it will be necessary to ascertain the proportions of flood waters which the Cauvery and the Vennar rivers can carry with safety, and how far the Coleroon can be made to carry the balance ; also how the silting up of the head of the Cauvery at the upper anicut can be prevented and the sand sent down the Coleroon, the flood embankments of which have to be raised and improved. Instructions have been sent to the Superintending Engineer to arrange for the necessary information being obtained.

(3) On completion of the plans and estimates for the works required for the distribution of water for irrigation, an opportunity of inspecting them will be given to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council who represent the District Boards and Municipalities of the southern groups, and the various people's associations and other interested parties in Tanjore will be consulted.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

248 [V] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to obtain and furnish information regarding the amount of salary grant paid during the last two years (1) to mission institutions, and (2) to non-mission institutions under private management ?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member will be supplied with a copy of a statement compiled in the office of the Director of Public Instruction which contains the information asked for. It is presumed that the question refers solely to salary grants paid from Provincial funds.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

249 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in view of the large surplus revenue in the Provincial treasury and of the answer given on the 14th November 1893 by the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin to a question * on the subject (*vide* page 57 of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council for 1893), any, and if so, what steps have been taken to secure an increase in the strength and pay of taluk establishments in this Presidency ?

* 18 *supra*

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—As the Honourable Member could have seen for himself by an examination of the budget figures at his disposal, it is an entire misconception to think that there is a "large surplus revenue in the Provincial treasury." A draft scheme has been prepared by the Board of Revenue, but it is under contemplation to test the adequacy of the proposals made by personal inspection of representative taluks by a member of the Board of Revenue. This will necessarily take time.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

250 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of Government buildings in the Presidency rented out to Government servants, the sums spent on their construction or purchase, the expenditure incurred in repairs, improvements, furniture, etc., during the last five years, and the amount of rent realised therefrom during the same period ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

Answer.—A statement containing the information asked for is now under preparation, and the Honourable Member will be furnished with a copy of it.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

251 [VIII] *Question.*—Whether the Government will be pleased to call for a return of Sub-Magistrates appointed in the several districts from 1893 up to date, showing their names, general qualifications and special qualifications, and to see whether in these cases the rules issued by the Government and the Board of Revenue when the nominations of Stationary Magistrates were made in 1892 have been conformed to ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government sees no need to call for a return of Sub-Magistrates recently appointed as suggested by the Honourable Member. Application is made to Government to invest with powers, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, every Magistrate appointed, and the form of application supplies the requisite information as to the service and qualifications of the nominee.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

252 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the percentage of the sums expended on the water-works of mufassal municipalities during the last three years which has been paid for pipes, steam-engines, and other plant ordered from England; through which officer or department the same are ordered, the firm or firms from which they are purchased, and the manner—whether by tender or by private contract—in which the purchases are made?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—A statement containing the particulars asked for by the Honourable Member will be supplied to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

253 [X] *Question.*—With reference to the answer * given at the meeting of 20th November 1894, about the appointment of District Judges, that the present condition of affairs is not so satisfactory as it might be, and that the subject is receiving the careful consideration of Government, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to place this branch of the Judicial service on a more efficient and satisfactory footing?

* 123 *supra*, p. 46.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The matter has for some time past been under consideration; the Government of India will be addressed at an early date.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

254 & 255. *Questions.*—**254** [XI].—(*a*) In connection with the re-settlement of the Gódávari district now in progress, has Government ordered that there should be a re-classification of soils in the delta taluks?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for ordering the said re-classification in spite of the pledges of Government embodied in the Settlement Manual and in the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue, No. 1, paragraph 4, that in the case of districts once settled there will be no re-classification of the soils?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the reports received and the orders passed by Government on the subject?

255 [XII].—Will Government be pleased to state the reasons that led to the change made in May last in the principles of re-settlement so long accepted by Government and the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

254 & 255 *Answers.*—**254**. (*a*) Yes. The Government, upon considering the reports of the Deputy Commissioner and of the Revenue Board, decided that a re-classification of the soils of the delta of the Gódávari was necessary.

254 (*b*) **& 255.**—In 1883 the Madras Government, on a reference from the Government of India, intimated that it was prepared to assent to the principle that, in districts in which the revenue had been adequately assessed, the rates of assessment should be revised entirely with reference to prices, and that no re-classification of soils or re-calculation of grain outturn should be attempted. But the Secretary of State, in a despatch, dated 8th January 1885, to the Government of India, refused to consent to the general scheme for the amendment of the settlement system proposed by the Government of India, especially that part of it which contemplated that the enhancement of assessments should be determined solely on the ground of a rise in prices, and

declared against the policy of laying down hard-and-fast rules pledging the Government of the future to a particular line of action in dealing with revisions of settlement. This despatch was communicated to this Government only in November 1893, and it then became necessary to issue instructions to the Board of Revenue to revise the Standing Orders and the Settlement Manual, with a view to bring them into agreement with the policy laid down by the Secretary of State. This was done in G.O., No. 263, Revenue, dated 11th May 1895. Between 1883 and 1893, Government had no intimation that the scheme for re-settlement set forth by the Government of India had been disallowed.

254 (*c*) The Government is not prepared to place upon the table the papers asked for by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

256 [XIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Gódávari is one of the districts held by Government in 1883 to have been adequately assessed in the settlement of 1861, and consequently exempt from re-classification?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In reply to a letter from the Government of India, this Government wrote in 1883 that it would assent to the proposal that increase of prices should alone be considered in future revisions of settlement in districts in which the revenue had been adequately assessed, and added that "such districts will be those which have been surveyed and in which the assessments have been fixed by the Settlement Department." Gódávari is one of the districts mentioned amongst those in which operations had then been completed. As I have stated, this assent related to a scheme which was afterwards disallowed by the highest authority.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

257 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to G.O., No. 870, dated 26th February 1895, issuing a revised notification with regard to the levy of the water-cess at an enhanced rate from the current fasli, will Government be pleased to state why it has ordered that the enhanced rate should be levied indiscriminately on all lands before the completion of the inquiry instituted to determine whether any exception should be made, and whether any specified areas or classes of lands should be exempted from the enhanced rate, and what the result of the said inquiry is?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to place the papers relating thereto on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Order of 26th February 1895 was passed in the form in which it stands, because, if it had not been so passed, all the lands which can bear the additional water-rate would have escaped the additional payment for the current fasli 1305. Under the Government Order quoted by the Honourable Member, the question whether any, and if so what, lands should be exempted from the enhanced water-cess is under the consideration of Government in communication with the Board of Revenue. If the concession is found necessary, the Collectors of Gódávari and Kistna will grant it at the time of the jamabandi.

(*b*) The question of laying the papers on the table will be considered when the correspondence is complete.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

258 & 259 *Questions.*—**258** [XV].—(*a*) With reference to the investigation which Government was pleased to order regarding the matters brought to its notice * at the meeting of the Council held on 20th November 1894 in connection with the Colair lake, will Government be pleased to state the measures adopted and the proposals made for the proper sanitation of the said lake and for its drainage, a permanent reduction in Colair level being necessary to improve the drainage of the delta also ?

* 126 *supra*, P. 49.

(*b*) Whether Government considers that the proposal of the Executive Engineer, Kistna Eastern Division, to keep open the two outlets of the lake, which is admitted to have no appreciable effect on the flood discharge, is sufficient to protect the cultivable lands in and round the lake to the extent of nearly two lakhs of acres from submersion, and keep the said lake in good sanitary condition ?

259 [XVI].—Is it a fact that owing to the recent flood in the hill streams, Tamileru, Budameru, etc., in September last, the lake Colair has risen to an unprecedented height this year, causing extensive damage in Gudiváda and Bhímavaram taluks, and will Government be pleased to place on the table any reports received on the subject and to call for a report on the subject, if none has been received ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick :—

258 } *Answer.*—(1) The subject of keeping open the mouths of the discharge
259 } channels (Juvi and Perantala Kanamas) from the Colair lake is receiving attention at the hands of the local officers of the Public Works Department, and early transplantation and the introduction of a three months' crop, which would be cut before the lake rises, would save the crops. The cultivation of this kind of crop from seeds obtained from Tanjore having proved successful, it is proposed to buy grain for seed and distribute it among the ryots, in order to extend its cultivation in the low-lying lands bordering the lake.

(2) By keeping its outlets open the grounds of complaint will not be wholly removed but no means within a reasonable cost could at present be suggested for reducing the flood-levels in the lake. The Superintending Engineer, II Circle, has, however, been asked to report what measures are necessary to control floods in the Budameru.

(3) The flood in the lake during September last was 0·88 foot more than the flood of October 1892, and the Collector of Kistna reports that there will be a total failure of paddy crop over an area of from fifteen to twenty thousand acres, but the loss would not have been anything so large had it not been for the ryots' delay in commencing wet cultivation this year consequent on the agitation against the enhancement of the water-rate. The following Proceedings of Government containing flood reports will be placed on the table :—

G.O., No. 657, Revenue, dated 1st October 1895.
" " 845 I., dated 16th October 1895.
" " 855 I. " 23rd " "

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

260 [XVII] *Question.*—With reference to the announcement made by your Excellency at the meeting of the Council held on 5th January 1894 that the Tenancy Bill was one of the measures which would shortly be brought before the Council, will your Excellency be pleased to state at what stage the said Bill now is and when it is likely to be introduced ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The Bill is under revision with reference to certain suggestions made by the Government of India, and some information likely to prove useful in connection with the Bill is also being collected. Moreover, it has been thought necessary to collate and print a *résumé* of rulings of the courts under the Rent Recovery Act, and this is now being done. The Government is unable at present to say when the Bill will be introduced, but an officer will shortly be placed on special duty to deal with this matter and certain cognate questions.



14. MEETING OF THE 18TH DECEMBER 1895.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAMBERS :—

261 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government is aware of the decrease in the Salt Revenue of the Madras Presidency during the past few years as shown in their administration reports, whilst the Bombay Salt Revenue is increasing?

(*b*) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the marked increase in the imports of Bombay salt into the Madras Presidency, where it is selling freely to the exclusion of Madras salt?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Salt Revenue * of the Madras Presidency was higher in 1894–95 than in any of the preceding five years except 1890–91, in which year the abnormally large revenue was due to increased cash sales and diminished credit sales consequent on the high price of Government paper. The revenue from year to year fluctuates to a considerable extent with reference to the proportion of cash sales to credit sales. There has been a steady increase in the last five years in the sales † of locally-made salt for Home and Inland consumption.

	Rs.
* 1889–90	(*a*) 1,73,66,525
1890–91	(*a*) 1,91,95,523
1891–92	(*a*) 1,76,81,809
1892–93	(*a*) 1,69,94,837
1893–94	(*a*) 1,62,31,365
1894–95	(*a*) 1,78,46,130

(*a*) *Exclusive* of duty levied in Bombay on salt imported into this Presidency, but *inclusive* of duty on salt exported by sea to Bombay and Bengal Presidencies.

	I. Mds.
† 1890–91	6,658,596
1891–92	6,809,345
1892–93	6,893,473
1893–94	6,952,586
1894–95	7,070,096

	Rs.
‡ 1889–90	2,00,72,252
1890–91	2,10,26,192
1891–92	2,26,38,847
1892–93	2,18,06,319
1893–94	2,15,53,349

The Bombay Salt Revenue ‡ increased in 1890–91 and 1891–92, but decreased in 1892–93 and in 1893–94. The revenue for 1894–95 is not known.

(*b*) The imports of Bombay salt by *sea*, almost exclusively to the West Coast, in the last five years have been as follows :—

	Mds.
1890–91	1,229,621
1891–92	1,352,121
1892–93	1,262,231
1893–94	1,051,065
1894–95	1,149,662

The imports in 1894–95 were thus lower than in any of the previous four years except 1893–94, and there has been a very considerable decrease since 1891–92.

The imports of Bombay salt by rail are unimportant, the largest quantity imported in the last five years having been 9,924 maunds in 1893–94. In 1894–95, the quantity was only 5,492 maunds.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAMBERS :—

262 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government is aware of the serious effect of the influx of Bombay salt on the Salt trade of this Presidency?

(*b*) Whether any and what steps have been taken by Government to promote the production of light salt with a view to a successful competition with Bombay salt?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The salt trade of this Presidency has not been seriously affected by the competition of Bombay salt.

(*b*) The Bombay salt is, as a rule, lighter than the Madras salt. In the last three seasons experiments have been made with a view to ascertain whether a lighter salt can be manufactured in this Presidency consistently with chemical purity. Definite results have not yet been arrived at.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAMBERS :—

263 [III] *Question.*—Whether the Government is prepared to make a declaration of its policy in regard to the monopoly and excise systems?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—An exposition of the policy is given in the Government review of the Board's Administration Report of the Salt Revenue for 1894–95, which is already in type and will shortly be placed on the Editors' table.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAMBERS :—

264 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government is aware of any forms of coercion which were adopted at Ennore in 1894 and are being adopted now at Covelong and Merkanam circles by the Salt Department with a view to forcing the monopoly system on the licensees?

(*b*) Whether permission has been refused to store excise salt in the Madras depot since it was re-opened in 1895 although a portion of the depot was set aside for the storage of excise salt?

(*c*) Whether formerly re-covering of heaps took place at long intervals?

Whether these intervals have recently been shortened so that the cost of re-storing has been increased?

Whether re-storing sale remnants at Covelong and Merkanam circles was ordered in the midst of the present monsoon?

(*d*) Whether the Assistant Inspector and Sub-Inspector at Attiput went from house to house at the end of 1894, or beginning of 1895, or at any other time, and warned licensees that if they did not agree to monopoly they would not be allowed to manufacture salt or dispose of their stocks, but if they agreed to monopoly they would be allowed to manufacture any quantity of any quality?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) It is not the case that a portion of the depot was set aside for excise salt. It was set aside for excised salt, but it is reported that no application for permission to store excised salt therein has been made. In answer to the request of Messrs. Numberumaliah & Sons that the Madras depot should be re-opened for the storage of unexcised salt, they were informed that it would not be possible to make the arrangements this year. The Board of Revenue was requested to state under what conditions such storage might be permitted and when it would be able to complete the arrangements therefor. Its reply is now under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) The departmental order regarding the re-covering of heaps is as follows :—

"As a rule it will be found that heaps generally require more or less re-thatching from time to time, if the salt is to be properly preserved. Officers in charge of circles will be held personally responsible that the coverings of heaps are renewed often enough to prevent the salt being damaged by rain. In monopoly factories funds are provided for this purpose, and in excise factories the conditions of the license can always be put into force." (Paragraph 140 of Circular Order No. I of 1893.)

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

269 [IX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch, dated 8th January 1885, and the other papers referred to in the answers given to my questions, Nos. XII and XIII,* at the meeting of the Council held on the 4th November 1895 ?

* 255 and 256 *supra*, pp. 98 and 99.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to place on the table the papers mentioned by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble MR. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

270 [X] *Question.*—Whether it is one of the principles now in force in regard to the revision of the assessment that, when a substantial rise in the value of agricultural produce justifies an augmentation of the State demand, a limit to the increase to be made at any one time should be laid down, in view to protect the agricultural classes from the hardships of large and sudden enhancements, and whether any, and if so, what limit has been laid down in regard thereto ?

The Hon'ble Mr Grose :—

Answer.—There is no fixed limit to the increase in assessment which may be made at any particular revision of settlement; but in cases where the enhancement exceeds 25 per cent. the practice is that the rates should in the first instance be raised by that proportion only, the balance being imposed by subsequent annual increments.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

271 [XI] *Question.*—Whether, in arriving at the commutation rate for fixing the Government share of the produce, the principle now in force is to determine the same with reference to the average prices during the whole year or during the months in which the ryot generally sells his produce and pays the Government kists ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The commutation rate is determined with reference to the average prices throughout the whole year.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 254 *supra*, p. 98.

272 [XII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer † of Government given at the meeting of the 4th November 1895 that " the Government, upon considering the reports of the Deputy Commissioner and of the Revenue Board, decided that a re-classification of the soils of the delta of the Gódávari was necessary " and that " the Government is not prepared to place upon the table " the said reports and also the order of Government thereon, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not placing the said papers on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government declined to place the papers asked for upon the table because they contain much matter still under discussion, which it is considered inexpedient to publish at the present stage. When the Deputy Commissioner's scheme report is received, a copy will be furnished to the Honourable Member and opportunity will be afforded for criticism of the proposals made therein.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

273 [XIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the special circumstances that led the Government to decide " that a re-classification of the soils of the delta of the Gódávari was necessary ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The reasons which led the Government to decide upon a re-classification of the soils in the delta of the Gódávari are the following :—

A close examination of the nature of the soils in three taluks has shown that they are alluvial in character and cannot be described as black regar or as red ferruginous. They are similar to the soils of the Kaveri delta in Tanjore. It is also found that some areas of rich soils have deteriorated owing to defective drainage. Re-classification is therefore necessary in order to adjust the unequal incidence of the original rates. Other reasons are—

(1) The original classification was not uniform, inequalities in classification being discounted as far as possible by the group assigned to the village.

(2) The grouping of villages was not made with reference to markets and communications but solely with reference to the fertility of their soils.

(3) The capacity of the several sources of irrigation in each village was not taken into consideration. The whole village was placed in a particular group or class with reference to the average valuation of all sources taken together.

(4) Under the original settlement the scale of money-rates is so limited that it would not be possible under it to lighten the admittedly heavy assessment on the poorer soils.

(5) Ever since the original settlement the black-clay wet soils have been paying higher assessment than the black loam notwithstanding the fact that according to crop experiments made thirty years ago and again recently the latter soil is more productive than the former.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

* 258 and 259 (3) *supra*, p. 100.

274 [XIV] *Question.*—Adverting to the answer * of Government about the damage caused by the floods in the Colair lake that " the Collector of Kistna reports that there will be a total failure of paddy crop over an area of from fifteen to twenty thousand acres," will Government be pleased to state the extent of damage caused in the Government and zamindari villages of the Gódávari district ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available. A report will be called for from the Collector.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

275 [XV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that there is no produce harvested in the Gódávari and Kistna lankas within the dates of the first two instalments fixed for the payment of the Government demand, and will Government be pleased to inquire into the matter and order the alteration of the dates of instalments so that they may not fall due before the harvesting of lanka produce ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not aware of the fact. The inquiry suggested by the Honourable Member will be made, and if the result should show that a change in the dates of instalments is called for, the question of how they may be suitably fixed will be considered.

This rule has not been altered, but the Deputy Commissioner, Central Division, has recently issued instructions to his subordinates that, as a general rule, heaps covered with palmyra leaves require re-thatching every fifteen months and those covered with straw or grass once every two years. The question of re-covering heaps is distinct from that of re-storing.

It is the case that, in pursuance of the Deputy Commissioner's general instructions, the Inspectors of the Covelong and Merkanam circles issued orders in October last for the re-storage of remnant heaps, but the Board of Revenue, on representations being made to it, countermanded the orders pending report on the representations made.

(*d*) The Government has no information in respect of these allegations, but if the Honourable Member will indicate any specific instances of such inducements being offered, inquiry will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAMBERS :—

265 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government is aware that there are enormous stocks of old salt lying all over the Presidency under orders for destruction ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that certain experiments were made on an extended scale in 1894 by which it was proved that these stocks could be made easily saleable by sifting ?

(*c*) Whether the Government at the present time intends to continue the destruction of wholesome salt rather than allow the licensees to sift it ?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that Government contemplates, as a result of these experiments, to sift certain stock of heavy monopoly salt itself ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Detailed information is not immediately available, but under the rules all excise salt that has been in store for more than five years is liable to be put up for sale by auction and to be destroyed if no bid is obtained.

(*b*) The answer is that it is a fact that certain experiments in sifting salt were made on an extended scale in 1894. The sifting was done by Messrs. Binny & Co. and it is believed that they made a handsome profit by the transaction.

(*c*) & (*d*) The question of permitting the sifting of stored salt generally has been fully considered, and endeavours have been made to frame rules under which such permission might be granted in any factory, but it has been found impossible to devise a system under which, while the sifting of stored salt is permitted, the Government revenue can be safe-guarded and the small licensees equitably treated. The question of permitting the sifting under special circumstances of stored salt, whether the property of Government or of licensees, for a limited period in the factories of the Vayalur, Ennore and Covelong circles is at present under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAMBERS :—

266 [VI] *Question.*—Whether under the existing system of accounts it is possible for any portion of the expense of constructing and maintaining monopoly extensions, designed to keep down the prices of excise salt, to be made, or to become, a charge in the form of cess upon excise salt ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Board of Revenue reports not.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAMBERS :—

267 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that, although excise salt is considered unfit for human consumption and ordered for destruction after five years, a considerable quantity of monopoly salt more than five years old remains in the heaps that Government has recently purchased as a reserve, and whether it is intended to sell such monopoly salt ?

(*b*) Whether monopoly salt has any time been destroyed in the same wholesale manner that is adopted with excise salt ? If so, when and where ?

(*c*) Are there any grounds for considering excise salt when five years old unfit for consumption and monopoly salt of the same age fit for consumption ? If so, what are the grounds for this conclusion ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The rule * is that the Commissioner may order salt that has been in store for more than five years to be sold by auction (the sale-proceeds going to the owner of the salt) and to be destroyed if no bid is obtained. This course is adopted, not on the ground that the salt becomes unfit for human consumption after being in store for five years, but because the fact that it has been in store for so long indicates that it is unsaleable or that the owner is unwilling to part with it at its marketable price, and it is necessary that the Commissioner should have power to order such salt to be cleared from the platform to make room for new salt. Government possesses salt more than five years old, and it is not the intention to destroy it unless it is unsaleable.

* Rule II-B 14 of the rules framed by Government under section 85 (*c*) of the Salt Act and contained in Notification No. 406, published on pages 678-685, Part I of the *Fort. St. George Gazette*, dated 9th September 1890, as amended by notification, dated 4th September 1893, on page 1108, Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 26th September 1893.

(*b*) The destruction of 51,600 maunds of Government salt at Pandraka was sanctioned in 1892, on the ground that it was unsaleable. Part of it was destroyed, but the destruction of the remainder was deferred as there was likely to be depletion of stocks at the factory on account of unfavourable manufacturing seasons and, a demand having arisen, some of it has been sold at a reduced cost price.

(*c*) The answer to the first part of this question is "No." The second part, therefore, requires no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

268 [VIII] *Question.*—With reference to the despatch of the Secretary of State, dated 8th January 1885, disapproving of the principles of re-settlement assented to by this Government and communicated to this Government in November 1893, was your Excellency's Government pleased to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State that, so far as this Presidency is concerned, the pledges of Government, as embodied in the Settlement Manual and in the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue, and the declarations of Government from time to time, have been to the effect that there will be no re-classification of soils or re-calculation of grain values in the case of districts once settled and that the terms of the said despatch of the Secretary of State cannot, in consequence, be made applicable to this Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government did not address the Secretary of State in the matter ; it could not have done so in the terms suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

276 [XVI] *Question.*—Has Government framed any rules under section 16 of the Local Boards Act of 1884 for the election of members of Taluk Boards by Union Panchayats ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—No.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

277 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Government received a petition from the inhabitants of Palmanér village, in the North Arcot district, protesting against the conversion of their union into a major union with liability to pay maximum rates of house-tax ? Did the Local Fund District or Taluk Board, prior to resolving upon the levy of the tax, inform or consult the inhabitants of the village about its intention to make Palmanér a major union, and invite or hear objections of the people of the village against that proposal ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there are only 830 houses in the village, including choultries, temples and other public places, of which 450 are huts similar to Woddar huts, 200 mud terraced houses worth 50 or 60 rupees each, and only 100 tiled and 5 terraced houses ; and if this is correct will the Government be pleased, in view to the great poverty of the village, to rescind its order directing full house-tax to be levied therein ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct Local Fund Boards, in future, to consult and hear the objections of the inhabitants of every village which is intended to be made a union, or to be converted from a minor to a major union ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is " Yes." With reference to the second part, Government has no information. It is not understood what the Honourable Member means when speaking of " converting " into major unions. The Honourable Member will find in section 3 (iv) of Madras Act V of 1884 information as to what constitutes a major union. The levy of the house-tax is not affected by the question whether any particular union is a major or minor one.

(*b*) From a report received from the President of the District Board it appears that there are 1,189 houses in the village liable to taxation from which an income of Rs. 682 per annum is expected. The Government considers that unions should, as far as practicable, be self-supporting, and that the funds of Taluk Boards should be called upon as little as possible to contribute to their upkeep and consequently sees no reason to reconsider its order approving the levy of full house-tax in this union.

(*c*) As regards the formation of unions the Government is not prepared to issue any order, the matter being one which should be left to the discretion of local boards. With reference to the concluding portion of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is called to the answer already given to clause (*a*) of this question.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

278 [XVIII] *Question.*—Has the Government granted the privilege of election to any of the unions (Panchayats) in this Presidency constituted under Madras Act V of 1884 ; and if so in what places and to what extent ? Will the Government be pleased to grant, under section 122, Act V of 1884, the privilege of electing members of unions by the tax-payers and inhabitants of the union to the extent of at least half the sanctioned strength of the union, in all the major unions of the Presidency, and prescribe such rules and conditions under section 121 (ii) of the Act for purposes of election as the Government may deem fit ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The privilege of electing members of panchayats has not been granted in any unions, nor is the Government prepared at present to introduce the system.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

279 [XIX] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remarks contained in a " correspondent's " letter in page 5 of the *Madras Standard* newspaper of the 28th November 1895, and the sub-leader in page 4 of the paper of the same date, in the matter of stamp defalcations in the Government Treasury at Negapatam ? In view to prevent misapprehension by the public, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the order passed by the Government on the subject and such other papers as the Government may deem fit to make public ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Yes, but the Government is of opinion that no good purpose would be served by the publication of the papers referred to by the Honourable Member. The facts of the case were before the public at the trial of the head shroff, who was convicted by the Sessions Court of Tanjore and sentenced to imprisonment and fine. The orders which Government has passed deal with the misconduct of certain officials through whose neglect the defalcation was made possible and call for further information and for explanation from the European officers whose duty it was to inspect the taluk treasury from time to time. In the case of these officers the Government awaits their explanation before passing final orders.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

280 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the area reserved under Chapter II of the Madras Forest Act V of 1882 as reserve forests since the close of the year 1890-91 according to the new Forest policy of this Presidency, and the extent to which notification has been issued under section 4 of the Act, and which is in the course of reservation under Chapter II ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what extent of the area that has been so reserved, or is under course of reservation, represents forests which would fall under Class (*c*) Minor forests, fuel and fodder reserves, and (*d*) Pasture lands, as described in Government of India Resolution, No. 22 F., dated 19th October 1894 ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to transfer all such areas of minor forests, fuel and fodder reserves and pasture lands from the class of reserve lands to that of unreserve lands under Chapter III of the Madras Forest Act, and regulate them under rules framed under section 26 of the Act, as contemplated in paragraph 15 of the Resolution, No. 22 F., of the Government of India, dated 19th October 1894, and free such areas from the stringent rules applicable to reserve lands ?

Will the Government be also pleased to completely disafforest fuel and fodder reserves and grazing areas pure and simple, situated in the midst of or in the vicinity of cultivated tracts, as contemplated in the latter part of paragraph 15 of the said resolution ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to the annual Forest Administration reports for 1890-91 to 1894-95 which contain the information for which he asks.

(*b*) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available in the Government Office and the Government does not propose to call for it as the compilation of the necessary statistics would entail an excessive amount of labour.

(*c*) The Government has since 1890 acted on the policy that, if it is desirable to protect any area at all, whether for the purposes of timber growth, for fuel and fodder or for grazing only, it is necessary to reserve the land absolutely. The Government of India has approved the continuance of this policy. It follows, therefore, that the Government is not prepared to transfer all minor forests, fuel and fodder reserves and pasture lands to the class of unreserved lands or to disafforest all fuel and fodder reserves and grazing areas pure and simple situated in the vicinity of cultivated tracts. The Government has, however, under consideration what reserves should be disafforested on the ground that they do not exceed one square mile in extent.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

* Same as 429, *infra*, p. 164.

* **281** [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that certain officials in the Cuddapah district grossly abused the privilege granted recently by Government to *bonâ fide* agriculturists to take free of cost babul trees for their domestic and agricultural purposes, and felled and appropriated to themselves large quantities of this wood, while they were clearly not intended to be benefited by the order ?

(*b*) Did traders and speculators, who had no interest in the village, follow the example of these officials and denude the babul jungles of all trees, to the great hardship and disadvantage of the village population ?

(*c*) Did the Government, in consequence of the above occurrence, rescind the order, depriving thereby even *bonâ fide* agriculturists of the privilege of taking these trees free of charge for fuel, etc.?

(*d*) Is it a fact that in the tract of country where these incidents happened, no other wood is available for fuel and other domestic and agricultural purposes ?

(*e*) Is it also a fact that, in consequence of the above occurrences, babul tree, hitherto classed under Class 3, has been raised to Class 2, and a higher seigniorage is levied on the same than before ?

(*f*) Did the Government direct the subordinate authorities to issue definite instructions for regulating the free use of the wood, and preventing abuse ; and what effect was given by those authorities to such instructions of Government, if any ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The matter referred to is at present under inquiry by the Board of Revenue.

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15. MEETING OF THE 26TH FEBRUARY 1896.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

282 [I] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in many cases members of the Indian Civil Service, especially Assistant, Head Assistant and Sub-Collectors, are transferred, at short intervals, from one station to another and sometimes from a district where one language is spoken to a district where the spoken language is totally different ?

Whether, with a view to enable junior members of the Civil Service to acquire an intimate knowledge of particular localities and districts, Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of making the pay of the various grades of these officers personal, so that they may, without hindrance to their promotion, be allowed to remain at particular stations for at least three years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Officers who are Assistant Collectors only are rarely moved from one district to another and then only for special reasons. When, however, such officers are appointed to act as Head Assistants they are invariably gazetted Assistants in the districts in which they receive their acting promotion in order to prevent their being again moved should they revert to Assistantships. Transfers of Head Assistants and Sub-Collectors are no doubt frequent and it is a fact that such officers are sometimes sent to districts, the language spoken in which is unknown to them, but this state of things is unavoidable and is not confined to appointments held by the Indian Civil Service.

The matter referred to in the latter part of the Hon'ble Member's question has formed the subject of considerable discussion in the past. The Government will reconsider it.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

283 [II] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state how many members of the Indian Civil Service have, in each of the last ten years, availed themselves of the inducements offered by Government to pass the High Proficiency or Honors examinations in oriental languages ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The following are the figures :—

	Appeared.	Passed.
1886	4	2
1887	1	..
1888	2	1
1889	..	..
1890	2	1
1891	2	2
1892	2	2
1893	..	..
1894	3	2
1895	..	..
Total ..	16	10

The Hon'ble Mr. N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

284 [III] *Question.*—With reference to the fact that in the Upper Subordinate Service of the Public Works Department there is a large number of temporary officers, nearly one-half of the permanent establishment, discharging the same responsible duties as the permanent officers in the department, but having no claim

for promotion or pension, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of substituting, to some extent at least, permanent officials for these temporary men in the same way as your Excellency's Government was pleased to do in the case of officials employed on the restoration of tanks ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—There are 90 temporary Upper Subordinates as against 179 permanent Upper Subordinates. The temporary men are promoted on the temporary establishment under the same rules as apply to permanent men, but they have no claim to pension. They are not usually employed in as responsible charges as permanent men. The temporary establishment is intended to supplement the permanent staff to meet the demand for extra supervision which may arise from time to time, as well as to insure that the Public Works establishments are capable of contraction as well as expansion as the expenditure on works diminishes or increases. The arrangement is in force in accordance with the policy laid down by the Government of India, and the Government sees no reason to recommend any change.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

285 [IV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether it is its policy with regard to the settlement of land revenue that the officer fixing the assessment should also be the authority to hear appeals against his own assessment, and, if not, will Government be pleased to direct that the officer hearing appeals should be different from the officer fixing the assessment?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In paragraph 62 of chapter IV of the Settlement Manual it is stated that the Settling officer is the authority to dispose of complaints regarding the terms of the rough pattas which are distributed after the completion of the preliminary stages of the settlement. Such complaints are styled "appeals" in section II of chapter V, but they are merely appeals against the provisional rates contained in the rough pattas, and the assessment is not *fixed* until after they have been considered by the Settling officer. Under paragraph 62-A of chapter IV an appeal against that officer's decision lies to the Commissioner of Revenue settlement.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

286 [V] *Question.*—Whether, according to the present policy regulating revisions of assessment, there is any limit to the enhancement of revenue on individual holdings, and, if so, what is the limit ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The limit is that laid down by the rule that the Government demand shall not exceed the money value of half the net produce as calculated in accordance with the instructions contained in the Settlement Manual.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

287 [VI] *Question.*—Whether, according to the policy of Government, any improvement effected in the character of the soils by the use of water supplied by Government or by a private individual according to the rates fixed by them should be treated like other improvements made by the ryot, and therefore not subject to taxation or should be held liable to taxation, and if the latter, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The charge levied for the use of Government water—whether in the form of water-rate or a consolidated wet assessment—is fixed without making allowance for the possibility that the use of such water may ultimately produce a permanent improvement in the character of the soil; the Government cannot admit that such an improvement is made by, or at the expense of, the ryot or that it is exempt from liability to taxation.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

288 [VII] *Question.*—Whether it is a fact that paddy crops are not harvested until after the date fixed for the first instalment of Government kist and in some places until after the date fixed for the second instalment even ?

Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of altering the dates, so that no instalment may fall due before the crops are harvested.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose. :—

Answer.—The question is so wide and vague that no categorical answer can be given which would be correct for every part of the Presidency. Moreover, it is not clear whether the Hon'ble Member refers to any special kinds of paddy crops or to all paddy crops.

In regard to many, if not most, districts, it may be affirmed that the first kist is not due until after the harvest of the chief paddy crop. For instance, in Malabar and South Canara, the first crop is reaped in September and October, while the first kist falls due in December in Malabar and in March in South Canara. In the Gódávari and Kistna deltas, the first and principal paddy crop is harvested in December and the first kist falls due in January. In Madura and Tinnevelly and the greater part of Nellore there is no kist till February. In nearly all districts, the early paddy crop is reaped before the first kist falls due.

In some of the dry districts the paddy crop is of comparatively small importance, and almost everywhere the ryots who hold wet lands have also dry lands, the crops on which are generally harvested long before the first kist falls due. It has long been recognized as undesirable that there should be two sets of kists, and the existing kistbandi is arranged not only with reference to the "wet" harvest, but with reference to the "dry" and "wet" harvests considered together.

The question of further revising the kistbandi is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

289 [VIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that there is no date fixed for the payment of Government demand for the second crop raised by a ryot, and that consequently the demand is in some cases enforced as soon as the cultivation is begun and before the crop is harvested, and will Government be pleased to fix the date for the payment of kist for the second crop ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is at present unable to answer the question fully; inquiries will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

290 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to the fact that the consumption of country spirits in the excise tracts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam in 1893–94 shows an increase of 53,610 gallons over 81,586 gallons, the consumption in 1892–93, while the rest of the Presidency put together shows a decrease in consumption of 33,340

gallons, will Government be pleased to state what measures have been adopted to check the extraordinary increase in the consumption of liquors in the above-mentioned districts and with what results?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—In the towns of the Ganjám district a minimum selling price of 9 pies per dram of 30° under-proof was fixed in 1893–94, and though the consumption in that year showed an increase, in the subsequent year the consumption showed a decrease of 9,230 gallons, London Proof, as compared with 1893–94.

In the Vizagapatam district the Government has, on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, directed that a minimum selling price of 1 anna 2 pies per dram of 30° under-proof should be fixed for the towns from 1st April next.

It may be added that although licit consumption has increased in these districts it is not believed that the total consumption has increased, save so far as may be accounted for by the influx of labour and the better wages paid in consequence of the construction of the East Coast Railway and the Rushikulya Project.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

291 [X] *Question.*—Whether the "proposed" rules published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of January 1895 with regard to the distribution of water in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas have been brought into force? If not, what is the cause of the delay, and when does Government propose to bring the rules into force?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—The rules for the distribution of water in the Gódávari delta were circulated for adoption in January last year and those in the Kistna delta were brought into force at the commencement of last irrigation season in June 1895.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

292 [XI] *Question* (*a*).—With reference to the investigation which Government was pleased to order * in connection with the lake Colair, will Government be pleased to order enquiry on the following points also:—

* 126, 258 and 259, and 274, pp. 49, 100 and 107, respectively.

(1) Whether there was formerly another outlet besides Upputeru, called Kavitikodu, draining the waters of the lake, and whether it has been blocked up by the construction, in 1885 and 1886, of irrigation channels across its course?

(2) Whether, before a large number of drains from the Kistna and Gódávari districts were let into the lake and its outlet Upputeru, that is, before 1883, the lake used to become dry during summer so as to allow transport of grain by carts to Ellore?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to call for a report on the sanitary condition of the lake Colair?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—The Government is not in a position to answer the question at once; the necessary information has been called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

293 [XII] *Question.*—Whether the Government is aware that in connection with the primary examination—

(1) the majority of examinees are below the age of twelve and are often taken from their homes to a distance of between ten and twenty miles, and sometimes to a distance of more than thirty miles even;

(2) young school pupils are examined along with grown-up persons whose object is to qualify themselves as teachers or for employment in the public service;

(3) the examination entails a loss to Government of nearly Rs. 20,000 a year;

(4) the present compulsory character of the said examination is against the recommendations of the Indian Education Commission—

(*a*) that the upper primary and lower primary examinations (the present primary examination taking the place of the old upper primary examination) be not made compulsory in any province;

(*b*) that all primary schools receiving aid be invariably inspected *in situ*.

Will Government be pleased to investigate the matter and issue orders that the said examination should cease to be the test for passing grants under the Grant-in-Aid Code?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(1) From the returns for the last five years it appears that slightly over 50 per cent. of the examinees were twelve years of age or under. It is probably the case that some of them were taken from their homes to a considerable distance, but the Government has no specific information on the point.

(2) Yes. The examination is *viva voce* and not competitive.

(3) The examination has entailed a loss to Government of over Rs. 20,000 during each of the past three years and steps have recently been taken to reduce the expense of it.

(4) (*a*) The Honourable Member seems to have based this portion of his question entirely on a perusal of section 224 (wrongly numbered 124) or section 676 (2) of the Report of the Education Commission. He appears to have overlooked the arguments on which the recommendation in these paragraphs was based, and an examination of these will show that the recommendation quoted by him merely insists that a universal and particular standard for the Primary examination which was favoured by the Government of India should not be forced on any province. The examination is only compulsory for results-grants and certificates of qualification for the Public service, and not for promotion to the secondary stage.

(4) (*b*) All primary schools are inspected *in situ* and they are all examined *in situ* with respect to the four standards of lower primary education. The Commission only recommended that the examination should be conducted *in situ* AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

294 [XIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the present practice of fixing the assignment to schools worked under the result-grant system with reference to their net cost and with no reference whatever to their probable or actual earnings results in great injustice to individual managers, ill-attended and ill-worked schools getting under this system nearly the whole of their earnings, while well-attended and well-taught schools get only a small fraction of their earnings?

Will Government be pleased to order such modification of the present assignment system of paying result grants as would secure a fair distribution of the allotments among individual schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—The merits of the system are now under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

295 [XIV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to obtain and place on the table statements relating to result grants to schools from public funds for 1894–1895—

one showing for each district—
(1) the number of schools which earned grants in excess of the assignments fixed for them;
(2) their total net cost;
(3) the total of assignments to them;
(4) their actual earnings (not payments);
(5) the total loss to managers;

and another showing—
(1) the number of schools which earned less than the assignments fixed for them;
(2) their total net cost;
(3) the total of assignments to them;
(4) their total earnings;
(5) the total lapses.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The information sought is not at present available: if, however, after considering the reply given to the previous question,* the Hon'ble Member still wishes for it, it will be called for and placed on the table.

* 294 *supra*, p. 115.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

296 [XV] *Question.*—Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to complaints in the Press—especially in the *Madras Mail*—to the extremely bad condition of the roads in the Tinnevelly district, or is the Government otherwise aware of it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has not been drawn to the complaints referred to by the Honourable Member, but the Government is otherwise aware of the bad condition of the roads in the Tinnevelly district and this has been made the subject of remark.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

297 & 298 *Questions*—**297** [XVI].—Whether, during the Collectorship of Mr. Forbes there, the Local Fund Engineer was compelled to resign his office?

298 [XVII].—Whether, after so sending in his resignation, he withdrew the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

297, **298** *Answer.*—The Government has received no report on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

299 [XVIII] *Question.*—Whether the present Collector of Tinnevelly held a protracted and an elaborate enquiry into the conduct of one Reynolds, an overseer of the district, in connection with various serious irregularities in the taluk of Srivaikuntam, and whether the same has ended in the removal of Reynolds from service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has received no report on the subject. The salary of the overseer being under Rs. 100 per mensem, no report was necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

300 [XIX] *Question.*—Whether the Government is aware that in that enquiry evidence has been forthcoming against the Engineer also which necessitates action being taken against him also? Whether even District Board Members are yet unaware of the details of the evidence?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

301, 302, 303 & 304 *Questions*—**301** [XX].—Is the Government aware of the recent high floods in Tambraparni, in Tinnevelly district, and the consequent damage to landed properties? If so, in what ways does the Government intend to assist the land-owners in relieving them from the loss they sustained?

302 [XXI].—Will the Government be pleased to say if the sand can be removed from the lands in question by means of machinery? If it can be, is the Government prepared to undergo a moiety of the expense?

303 [XXII].—Will the Government be pleased to allow *full* remission of tax on lands covered with sand until such lands shall have been rendered fit for cultivation again?

304 [XXIII].—Will the Government be pleased to devise means whereby such calamities can be averted in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

301, **302**, **303**, **304** *Answer.*—The Government is aware of the recent high floods in the Tambraparni, and a full report has been promised by the Collector of Tinnevelly who has been instructed to expedite it. Until this report has been received the Government cannot answer the other questions asked by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

305 [XXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it intends to withdraw from the direct management of the Kumbakónam College and to entrust the same to a private body; and if so, whether any steps have been taken by it towards the formation or selection of such a body; whether it is aware that the Director of Public Instruction has addressed a number of associations and individuals on the subject; and whether it will be pleased to state its opinion in respect of this correspondence of the Director?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Government has at present no intentions such as those referred to. It has, since the receipt of the Honourable Member's question, ascertained from the Director of Public Instruction that he has written demi-officially to five gentlemen asking their opinions as to the feasibility of the transfer of the Kumbakónam College to private management. The Government considers his doing this quite unobjectionable.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

306 [XXV] *Question.*—With reference to the answer to question No. XVIII * asked by me at the Council meeting held on the 18th December 1895, have the Government noticed that Act XIX of 1889 of the Government of India (the Central Provinces Village Sanitation Act) lays down that *all* the members of a panchayat except the Mukkaddom (headman) *shall* be elected by the villagers under rules framed by Government, and that similar provisions exist in Act III of 1885 of the Bengal Council (Bengal Local Self-Government Act)?

* 278, *supra*, p. 103.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has been drawn to the Acts mentioned by the question now put by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

* 280, *supra*, p. 109.

307 [XXVI] *Question.*—Adverting to the answer to question No. XX (*c*) * asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 18th December 1895, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence, if any, between this Government and the Government of India, which ended in the approval by the latter Government of the continuance in this Presidency of the Madras Forest policy of 1890 in preference to the policy explained in paragragh 15 of Government of India Resolution, No. 22 F., dated 19th October 1894, about reservation of minor forest, fuel and fodder preserves, pasture lands and grazing areas, generally and in the vicinity of cultivated tracts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The correspondence in question will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

308 [XXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if it is in its contemplation to withdraw in the near future from the management of the Kumbakónam College; and, if so, will any arrangements that may be proposed for its future maintenance be placed before the public prior to passing final orders, for representations being made, if necessary, about the advisability and adequacy of such arrangements?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

† 305, *supra* p. 117.

Answer.—The Honourable Member will be referred to the reply to the question † on the same subject put by the Hon'ble Mr. Rangayya Nayudu.

16. MEETING OF THE 11TH MARCH 1896.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

309, 310 & 311 *Questions*—**309** [I].—(*a*) Is it true that in the Tanjore district a special tax on trees is collected in some cases even when such trees stand on assessed lands?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of the lands in that district subject to this dual system of taxation?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to order the remission of one of the two taxes in Tanjore and also where it exists in other districts?

310 [II].—(*a*) Is it a fact—(1) that in the recent settlement of Tanjore no census was taken of tope trees and (2) that the ryots continue to pay tax on trees according to the old paimash?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) the amount of the tax so collected,
(2) the number of trees on which the same is levied, and
(3) the number of those now actually in existence?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state also the amount of the tax that may be levied on the lands on which those trees stand in lieu of the tree-tax?

311 [III].—(*a*) Is the Government aware that in Tanjore the conversion of dry lands into wet is effected by the ryots at great cost and labour by digging the former down to the level of the adjacent wet lands?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether in the re-settlement of Tanjore the full wet rates have not been invariably levied on lands which had been classed under dry in the old paimash and had been converted into wet by the ryots subsequently, and

(2) whether the ryots have not in consequence been deprived of the benefit resulting from their own improvements?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

309
310
311 } *Answer.*—The Government is not in a position to answer these questions fully; further inquiries will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

312 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) the amount collected as village cess in Tanjore in 1894–95,
(2) the village establishment maintained by Government in that district, and
(3) the annual cost of the same to Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(1) The amount collected as village cess in Tanjore in 1894–95 is Rs. 1,47,360.

(2) The village establishment maintained by Government consists of 1,442 karnams, 1,442 munsifs, and 1,442 vettis.

(3) The annual cost of the above establishment is Rs. 2,75,328.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

313 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the improvements effected by the South Indian Railway Company "to increase the comfort and convenience of native passengers" and the amount spent on the same since 22nd January 1895, the date of the reply of the Hon'ble Colonel Pennycuick to my question No. XXXIV? * [*Vide* page 15, Proceedings of the Legislative Council, Madras, 1895.]

* 162, *supra*, p. 65.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased also to state the amount spent by the said Company during the same period on "the provision of retiring accommodation for third-class passengers" mentioned in the same reply?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—The Circular No. XV Railway referred to in the reply to question XXXIV * on 22nd January 1895 was ordered to be cancelled and withdrawn and Circular No. 14 R., dated 10th July 1895, has been substituted. This has been published in G.O., No. 509 R. of 8th August 1895, and in the Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

* 162, *supra*, p. 65.

Reports have been called for from the Railway Administrations in the Madras Presidency, and the attention of the Government Inspectors of Railways has been specially given to the measures therein enumerated.

At the present time the proposals made by the Agent of the South Indian Railway are before the Board of Directors of that Railway and a special report has also been made to the Government of India by this Government.

Until the sanction of the Board is received the nature and extent of the measures cannot be made public as the reforms are not obligatory, but with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council a copy of the Agent's letter to the Board of the South Indian Railway embodying a scheme of improvements will be placed at the disposal of the Honourable Member.

The amount spent by the Company since January 1895 in carrying out works of increased waiting-room accommodation (for native passengers), widening and lengthening platforms for all classes, improving latrine accommodation, wells and water-supply to platforms (for native passengers) has been between rupees thirty and forty thousand, of which about five hundred has been for medical attendance and temporary latrines expressly for native pilgrim passengers.

17. MEETING OF THE 8TH APRIL 1896.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

314 [I] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state the cause of the recent outbreak among the Mappillas in Malabar?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is unable to state with any certainty the causes of the outbreak.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

315 [II] *Question*.—What is the number of Mappillas that have been killed in the recent disturbance?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Ninety; three others died subsequently of their wounds. Of these ninety-three, ninety-one were killed at Manjéri and two by the Police subsequently.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

316 [III] *Question*.—Were all those that have been killed rebels? Were there any children among them and persons that were forced to join the party?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is not yet in possession of accurate information in the matter.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

317 [IV] *Question*.—Did the local authorities take all the possible steps to prevent the extension of the outbreak? Were any steps taken to secure the surrender of the Mappillas, with the assistance of their leaders or otherwise, without resorting to the extreme measure that has been taken?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—To the first part of the question the answer is "Yes, as far as the Government is aware," and to the second part "Government is not yet in possession of full information on this point."

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

318 [V] *Question*.—What is the present state of the country and has quiet been restored?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is informed that there is some dacoity in the affected taluks and considerable alarm among the Hindu population. The Police are actively engaged in restoring order.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

319 [VI] *Question*.—What is the object of Mr. Winterbotham's mission to Malabar?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The order deputing Mr. Winterbotham to make inquiries in connection with the outbreak will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

320 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Mappillas get the opportunity to lay before Mr. Winterbotham their grievances, and, as such evidence will be very useful, will the Government be pleased to instruct Mr. Winterbotham to collect the leading Mappillas of the different parts and take their opinion in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government considers that Mr. Winterbotham may be relied upon to use the best means to obtain the necessary information.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

321 [VIII] *Question.*—Considering that no Muhammadan officials of higher grade are on the spot and that the district is officered by officials of all other classes, will the Government be pleased to depute a Muhammadan officer in the grade of Deputy Collector and one or two Police Inspectors of high merits to assist Mr. Winterbotham in approaching the Mappillas so that the latter may have confidence in those officers, they being entirely unconnected with the interest of either party, and lay their case freely before the Commissioner?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The proposals do not commend themselves to Government.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

322 & 323 *Questions* **322** [IX].—What decision has the Government arrived at on the definite proposals made last July by the Board of Muhammadan Education in view to placing the Madrasa-i-Azam or Muhammadan high school on an efficient basis?

323 [X].—Is the Government willing to locate the Madrasa-i-Azam in the Umdah Bagh (Maclean's Gardens) in compliance with the unanimous opinion of the exceptional eligibility of that site which was expressed by the Muhammadan Board of Education?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

322 } *Answer.*—The questions connected with the re-organization of the
323 } Madrasa-i-Azam and its location in the Umdah Bagh are still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

324 [XI] *Question.*—Is it a fact, as stated in the *Madras Standard* newspaper, dated 9th March 1896, under the heading "The Police and the Magistracy," that there is in existence in the Tanjore district a circular of the Collector directing Sub-Magistrates *to wait upon* Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police when they visit their stations and "to communicate freely what there is to be said regarding the joint work of the department," and is it also a fact that certain Sub-Magistrates in that district were called upon, on the report of the Superintendent of Police, to explain their neglect of orders in *not waiting on him* when in their vicinity?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the point.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

325 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the causes which led to the packets of question papers, set for the Pleadership Examination of this year, being tampered with or damaged?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the necessary and usual precautions were adopted by the officers concerned in the despatch of the said question papers to mufassal stations?

(*c*) In view to prevent the great hardship to candidates living in the remote parts of the Presidency, will the Government be pleased to order the continuance, from next year, of the system of holding examination in different centres, instead of in the City of Madras as has been ordered for this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on the point.

(*b*) The Government believes they were.

(*c*) The Government does not see sufficient reason to recall the orders passed at the suggestion of the Pleadership Examination Board directing that the examination shall in future be held in Madras alone.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

326 [XIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to adopt measures for concession rates of third-class fare being granted by the Railway authorities in this Presidency to cricket, foot-ball and golf teams, theatrical, musical or concert parties, and tourist or pilgrim parties, whose limited means may permit them to travel only third class, similar to the concession granted to teams and parties travelling in the higher classes under present rules?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell—

Answer.—The Government does not consider it desirable to take any steps for the adoption of the concession rates asked for by the Hon'ble Member. The proper course for persons interested to pursue is to apply to the Agents of the Companies concerned, who will doubtless be ready to consider the adoption of such concessions if they are likely to prove commercially profitable.

The Government understands that the Madras Railway has already made, as an experimental measure, a very considerable concession to third-class travellers in the direction indicated.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

327 [XIV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the District Magistrate of Tinnevelly issued, some time back, a circular order to all the Magistrates of that district, declaring that they "will show their wisdom by being ready to assume that all complaints in which a Police officer is named as such, and which are in any way connected with his official duties, should be referred to the Superintendent of Police for investigation under section 202, Criminal Procedure Code"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the point, but, should the Hon'ble Member so desire, will make inquiries.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

328 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the floods of the 30th of December last, in the Tambraparni river, the lands situate between that river and the north of Tuticorin canal below the Srivaikuntam anicut, to a distance of about three miles, were submerged in consequence of several breaches in the northern bank of the river; that nine villages lying between those limits suffered much therefrom; that the residents of these same villages had petitioned Government in 1890, pointing out the danger they were in, because of the said bank being lower than the corresponding bank on the southern side of the river; and that yet the bank was not raised to the necessary height?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order that the northern bank of the said river be raised, and otherwise strengthened between the limits mentioned above, against similar floods in the future?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—(*a*) It is a fact that the old Tambraparni left flood bank below the Srivaikuntam anicut was nearly all destroyed by the floods of December last and several villages were flooded. These villages are situated between the old bank, the alignment of which it would not be possible to maintain, and the new bank which is further away from the river margin. The villagers have petitioned to have the old bank raised to the height decided on for the new banks, and after careful consideration in 1889 and as a special case the old bank has been maintained to its former section.

(*b*) It would not be advisable to raise the bank in question; to do so would, it is considered, lead to still greater damage.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

329 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that *manaicuts* which have been till now in the possession and enjoyment of the *kudis* of Tanjore, and over which they have been exercising from time immemorial all rights of ownership, are now treated, all at once, as poramboke lands, and that prohibitory rates of assessment are levied upon the *kudis* for continuing to keep such *manaicuts* in their possession?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to institute an inquiry into the claims of the *kudis* to such lands; and order the Revenue Department to stop inflicting penal rates of assessment till a final decision is come to on such an inquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—No information is available either in the Government or in the Board's office regarding the alleged charge of prohibitory assessment on *manaicuts*. A report will be called for from the Collector.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

330 [XVII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that in the village of Peralam in the Nannilam taluk of Tanjore, a regulating dam to an irrigation channel was considered to be necessary by the Executive Engineer and the Collector of the district; and that the ryots concerned were yet required to pay, and did pay, in February 1894, a contribution of Rs. 280 towards the construction of the said dam?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—Yes, in the interest of the *kudis* concerned.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

331 [XVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the income to Government in the three years beginning with 1892–93, from the sale of trees, and of their produce, where such trees stand on poramboke lands in the Tanjore district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—The Collector has been asked to furnish the required statistics.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

332 [XIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place upon the Council table the final report of the Settlement Department on the new settlement of Tanjore, referred to in my question No. XVII * published on page 35 of the Proceedings of this Council for 1895? And also the report referred to in my question No. XX†, published on page 36 of the said Proceedings?

* 204 *supra*, p. 82.

† 207 *supra*, p. 82.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—The final report regarding the settlement of the Tanjore district will shortly be reviewed by Government and the question of laying it on the table will be considered at the same time.

The information embodied in the other report referred to in the question has already been communicated to the Hon'ble Member, and the Government has no objection to laying on the table a copy of the communication addressed to him on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

333 [XX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Viraswami Nayudu was tried by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Cuddalore (Mr. S. Sundara Aiyar) in Calendar Case No. 581 of 1891, known as the Nellikuppam Abkári case and convicted under sections 55 and 56 of the Abkári Act and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—It is a fact.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

334 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that there was an appeal against this conviction and sentence and that the appeal was tried by the Sessions Court of South Arcot?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Sessions Judge reversed the conviction and sentence of the said Sub-Magistrate and observed that the punishment awarded by him was "vindictive and wholly unjustifiable," and that it "could hardly have been severer had the appellant been caught red-handed committing the most serious offence known to the Abkári Law"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR:—

335 [XXII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that in dismissing the appeal to the High Court by the Government against the acquittal by the Sessions Judge, the Honourable Judges of the High Court remarked in their judgment that "seeing how simple the case really was, the fact not being in dispute, "they felt bound to express their "grave disapproval of the way in which the inquiry was conducted" and that the Sub-Magistrate gave a sentence which is "double the sentence which could lawfully be inflicted under section 56 of the Abkári Act, the only section which could possibly apply to the case," and that the Sub-Magistrate had "wasted a vast amount of public time and allowed the process of the court to be abused in the trial of the case"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

345 } *Answer.*—The Government sees no reason to re-open the question at
346 } present. A copy of Mr. Moberly's report will be found in the Government Order laid on the table with reference to the answer given to Question No. XXV.*

* 338 *supra*, p. 126.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

347 [XXXIV] *Question.*—In reference to the proclamation of the Government, dated the 26th November 1895, under section 15 of the Police Act (V of 1861), as amended by Act VIII of 1895 recently extended to this presidency, declaring that Kalugumalai and four other villages in the Tinnevelly district had been found in a disturbed state, and that from the conduct of the inhabitants thereof, it was found expedient to quarter additional police force therein for two years at the cost of the inhabitants according to such apportionment as might be made by the District Magistrate, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what date or during what period the said villages were in a disturbed state, or the conduct of the inhabitants thereof such as to call for the application to them of the very exceptional provisions of the recently extended Police Act ?

(*b*) whether the conduct referred to in the proclamation has any reference to the riot that occurred on the 7th April 1895 in one of the five villages, viz., Kalugumalai ?

(*c*) whether, previous to issuing the said proclamation, the Government had directed any local inquiry to be made in view to ascertain the exact state of things, and, if so, whether the papers relating to such inquiry will be placed on the table ?

(*d*) upon what evidence, in case no such enquiry was held, the Government came to the conclusion stated in the proclamation and forming the basis therefor, and whether the papers containing the said evidence will be placed on the table ?

(*e*) whether the inhabitants of the area covered by the proclamation were given any and what opportunities to make their representations against the issue of such proclamation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) During the riot at Kalugumalai and during the period immediately preceding and following it.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) & (*d*) The local officers and the Inspector-General of Police reported fully upon the riot and the circumstances connected with it and it was upon a consideration of their reports that the proclamation was issued.

(*e*) No.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

348 [XXXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if it had any special reasons for issuing the proclamation more than seven months after the riot of April 1895, but while the criminal appeal in relation to the said riot was pending in the High Court and just one week before the judgment was delivered, and if so, whether it will be pleased to state them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—No. The inquiries made and consideration of the case occupied a considerable time, and there was no unreasonable delay in the matter. The orders passed were altogether independent of the decision of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

349 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if it has framed any rules for the guidance of the District Magistrates and Police for carrying out the provisions of the said Act V of 1861 in so far as it applies to this presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—No rules have been framed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

350 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and place on the table papers showing—

(*a*) the strength of the additional Police force quartered in the area covered by the proclamation ?

(*b*) the entire cost of every kind, of establishing and maintaining the said force for two years ?

(*c*) the principles upon which the inhabitants of the area are being assessed for the purpose ?

(*d*) lists of persons or classes of persons, if any, exempted from the said assessment and for what reason ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is unable to place upon the table papers on the subject, but the following information is furnished :—

(*a*) Two head constables and twenty constables.

(*b*) Between nine and ten thousand rupees ; exact figures cannot be given.

(*c*) According to a valuation of their houses.

(*d*) Occupiers and owners of land have been exempted *as such*, notwithstanding the fact that they may be held to be liable to assessment in reference to other immoveable property owned or occupied by them within the area in question. This exemption was ordered with a view to rendering the assessment more simple and equitable.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

351 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that the Deputy Magistrate who was stabbed to death while in discharge of official duty in the Kalugumalai riot of April 1895 was a man of unblemished public character and died poor ? and will the Government be pleased to state whether any provision has been made for his family by the Government or the zamindar and, if not, whether it will make suitable provision for his widow and children ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The officer in question was a Deputy Collector lent to the Court of Wards and employed as Manager of the Ettiyapuram Estate. He was in discharge of his duty as Manager at the time of his death, *not* as Deputy Magistrate or Collector. The Government has no information as to his means, but his character was good. The Government considers the case one in which the rules do not permit the grant of an extraordinary pension and is not aware whether the Court of Wards has made any provision for his family or contemplates doing so.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

352 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Whether Government have received a memorial signed by Rajas and other influential men with reference to the Wynaad settlement and bringing forward serious charges against the Settlement officials ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—A memorial from certain inhabitants of Malabar was received and forwarded, through the Government of India, to the Secretary of State to whom it was addressed. The Secretary of State, however, saw no reason to interfere on behalf of the memorialists, and his decision has been communicated to them.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Yes. I may add that the appeal by Government was filed in order that certain doubtful points of law occurring in the case might be settled.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

336 [XXIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Sub-Magistrate was promoted to the place of Tahsildar after the disposal of the case by him and has since been confirmed in that place ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

337 [XXIV] *Question.*—In view of the remarks of the Sessions Judge and of the High Court, will the Government be pleased to state what action it intends to take as regards the Sub-Magistrate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

338 [XXV] *Question.*—Whether it is true that the Government has resolved to transfer the head-quarters of the Wynaad taluk from the Manantoddy to Vayitri, and, if so, whether the Government will be pleased to state the grounds for the decision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is "yes." With reference to the second part, G.O., No. 592, Revenue, dated 29th August 1895, which contains a full statement of the reasons for the said decision, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

339 [XXVI] *Question.*—Whether it is a fact that on two previous occasions, viz., in 187 and 1885, the question whether Vayitri should be made the head-quarters of the taluk was fully discussed and the Government, with the concurrence of the Board of Revenue, came to the conclusion that the transfer was not desirable in public interests ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The question was considered in 1874 and 1885, and the circumstances which then existed were not considered to be sufficient to warrant the transfer.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

340 [XXVII] *Question.*—Whether the Government is aware that there is a very strong feeling against the proposed transfer to Vayitri amongst the inhabitants of Manantoddy and its neighbourhood, both Indian and European, and amongst the population of the taluk except a few planters in the South Wynaad ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not aware of the existence of any such strong feeling. A petition against the transfer was received from certain of the inhabitants of the North Wynaad and was duly considered by Government before passing final orders in the case.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

341 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Whether it is a fact that the Board of Revenue has deprecated the idea of the proposed transfer and declined to recommend the re-opening of the question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—It is a fact that the Board of Revenue declared that it was not prepared to re-open the question; but the chief reason on which that decision was based was that the point had already been twice considered and decided.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

342 & 343 *Questions*—**342** [XXIX].—Whether the Government has considered the fact that Manantoddy is the largest place in the taluk, so much so that it is the only place that can be called a town therein ; that it is the sanitarium of Wynaad and well-supplied with wholesome water all the year round, while Vayitri is an out-of-the-way village, unhealthy and malarious ?

343 [XXX].—Whether it is a fact that Manantoddy is most centrally and advantageously situated in respect of communication with the whole taluk and district and is much nearer than Vayitri to the proposed line of railway extension from Calicut to Cannanore ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

342 } *Answer.*—The Government has no definite information on the various
343 } points indicated in the above questions, but all the arguments for and against the proposed transfer were fully and carefully considered ; and under the altered conditions of the two localities, the balance of advantage was found to be decidedly in favour of the transfer.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

344 [XXXI] *Question.*—Whether the Government is aware that, owing to the fact of Manantoddy having been from time immemorial the seat of the principal State offices in Wynaad, the proposed transfer would not only greatly inconvenience the inhabitants thereof and of its immediate neighbourhood but also of the whole taluk, and would further greatly diminish the value of the buildings and other immovable property in Manantoddy and in the North Wynaad generally ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider that the proposed transfer will cause the disadvantages named by the Hon'ble Member, as the Deputy Tahsildar of Vayitri will take the place of the Tahsildar at Manantoddy and the Deputy Collector will continue to hold his head-quarters at the latter station.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

345 & 346 *Questions*—**345** [XXXII].—Whether the Government will be pleased to reconsider the whole question and see if the possible advantages expected from the proposed transfer cannot be obtained in any other way and much more easily, such as by a redistribution of the areas forming the criminal jurisdiction of the Magistrates in the taluk and making provision for the more ready cashing of cheques at the sub-treasury at Vayitri for the convenience of the planters in the South Wynaad ?

346 [XXXIII].—Whether in any case the Government will be pleased, before adopting and carrying out the scheme of Mr. Moberly in connection with the proposed transfer submitted by him while he was Acting Collector of Malabar, to place his report on the table and to give the people of the taluk, especially of Manantoddy and the North Wynaad, an opportunity to submit their representations in the light of what he has said ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

353 [XL] *Question.*—If so, whether, with reference to the statements in paragraphs 6 and 49 of the memorial, Government will be pleased to call upon the signatories to substantiate their statements that cattle, implements, etc., of the ryots were sold for arrears of revenue, and call for a report from the responsible officials whether there is any, and if so what, truth in those statements ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In March 1892 the Board of Revenue, under the orders of Government, imposed restrictions on the attachment and sale of implements of husbandry and cattle, by issuing a standing order to the effect that "as a protection to the poorer ryots, the implements of husbandry and one pair of cattle for each holding should be considered as exempted from attachment and sale for arrears of revenue."

Prior to the issue of the above standing order, there were no restrictions, but from the Collector's report it appears that the distraint of seed-grain was not then general and that agricultural implements were never attached. The standing order just referred to was slightly amended in November 1892, and since then the concession has been granted to each cultivator instead of in respect of each holding.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

354 [XLI] *Question.*—Whether,—with reference to the statements in paragraphs 37, 38, 39 that in the Wynaad taluk "there have been from time immemorial several sacred places, associated with the lives and devotional labours of ascetics and pious sanyasis, as also many sacred localities made over as gifts for religious purposes by the ancient grantees of the country"; "that owing to the desecration, spoliation and usurpation of temple properties, religious ceremonies can no longer be performed"; and that on account of the acts of the Settlement officials, "the religious affairs of the people in this taluk have fallen into utter confusion and none of the important ceremonies can be performed,"—Government will be pleased to call on the signatories above named to substantiate their statements, or will be pleased to ascertain in any other way that Government considers fit whether there is truth in such statements ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In a similar momorial addressed to the Government of India in June 1889 the memorialists gave a list of the "pagodas" and "religious institutions," the property of which was alleged to have been unjustly escheated. The Special Settlement Officer, to whom this memorial was referred, reported as follows :—

"Most of the names given are those of private shrines, the owners of which were given a full opportunity of establishing their alleged titles. Where they succeeded, their claims were allowed; but where they failed, their claims were rejected and they were left to seek redress (if they thought they were entitled to any) in the ordinary civil courts. Some of these claims were settled some thirty years ago, and the decisions then arrived at have been acquiesced in and accepted. In other cases the petitioners have omitted to state that special grants of service inam were made for the maintenance of the temples by Government at the settlement, and that the lands which were the subject of those grants are now held by the temple trustees free of all assessment and janmabhogam. The matter printed in the nine volumes of escheat reports submitted by myself, disposes of the allegation that there was no inquiry at all."

In these circumstances, the Government is satisfied that sufficient opportunity was given to the claimants to establish their alleged titles, and therefore considers that no further inquiry is necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

355 [XLII] *Question.*—With reference to the allegations in paragraph 35 of the memorial that "the Revenue Settlement Officer was empowered as a Forest Settlement official to buy up lands on these revenue forests by paying sufficient compensation to the owners, and that in the case of one Mr. Fletcher who owned lands in and out of the forest of Peria, the Forest Officer exerted himself and got the Government to pay him ample compensation, but that instead of granting compensation to the native owners they were intimidated and their lands taken away by violent means," whether Government will be pleased to order inquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The allegations are reported to be wholly untrue. No less than Rs. 7,125 were paid to native right-holders as compensation for the surrender of their admitted rights to Government in the Chedleth and Begur reserves. In all cases, parties dissatisfied had the right of appeal to a superior authority (the District Court) had they cared to exercise it. The Government, therefore, deems it unnecessary to direct any further inquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

356 [XLIII] *Question.*—Whether it is true, as stated in paragraphs 25, 26, 27 that the signatories presented their documents to the Settlement Officer to establish their claims, that no "impartial inquiry" was ever held and that the title-deeds were never returned though the petitioners applied for them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The memorialists' allegation that no impartial inquiry was ever held, appears to be without foundation. All the documents filed, for the return of which the owners applied, are reported to have been returned. In the case of many documents (chiefly cadjans) the owners never applied for their return, and they were for a time retained by the Settlement Officer. Subsequently, however, Mr. Moberly issued a notice to the effect that all such documents would be destroyed unless applied for within a fixed time. The notice was published in the Nilgiri and Malabar Gazettes and copies of the notice were issued for distribution among the janmis in the Nilgiri-Wynaad and the Malabar-Wynaad. As the special Settlement Officer was frequently on tour, the Head Assistant Collector, Nilgiris, and the Deputy Collector of Malabar were entrusted with the duty of returning these documents to claimants after satisfying themselves as to their identity. According to a report received from the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1895, out of 1,306 documents given to the Deputy Collector, 869 had been returned and the remaining 437 were still in his custody; it was reported that many individuals on whom notices had been served calling on them to take delivery of documents had not taken the trouble to come and claim them. In another report from the same authority, dated 20th September 1895, it is stated that out of 124 documents sent to the Head Assistant Collector, it had been found possible to return only three and that no claimants had come forward for the rest, notwithstanding that special notices were again and again published in the Gazettes and also distributed among the janmis.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

357 [XLIV] *Question.*—Whether Government will be pleased to call upon the signatories to substantiate their charges against Settlement officials ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government does not think that any useful purpose would be served by so doing.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

353 [XL] *Question.*—If so, whether, with reference to the statements in paragraphs 6 and 49 of the memorial, Government will be pleased to call upon the signatories to substantiate their statements that cattle, implements, etc., of the ryots were sold for arrears of revenue, and call for a report from the responsible officials whether there is any, and if so what, truth in those statements ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In March 1892 the Board of Revenue, under the orders of Government, imposed restrictions on the attachment and sale of implements of husbandry and cattle, by issuing a standing order to the effect that "as a protection to the poorer ryots, the implements of husbandry and one pair of cattle for each holding should be considered as exempted from attachment and sale for arrears of revenue."

Prior to the issue of the above standing order, there were no restrictions, but from the Collector's report it appears that the distraint of seed-grain was not then general and that agricultural implements were never attached. The standing order just referred to was slightly amended in November 1892, and since then the concession has been granted to each cultivator instead of in respect of each holding.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

354 [XLI] *Question.*—Whether,—with reference to the statements in paragraphs 37, 38, 39 that in the Wynaad taluk "there have been from time immemorial several sacred places, associated with the lives and devotional labours of ascetics and pious sanyasis, as also many sacred localities made over as gifts for religious purposes by the ancient grantees of the country"; "that owing to the desecration, spoliation and usurpation of temple properties, religious ceremonies can no longer be performed"; and that on account of the acts of the Settlement officials, "the religious affairs of the people in this taluk have fallen into utter confusion and none of the important ceremonies can be performed,"—Government will be pleased to call on the signatories above named to substantiate their statements, or will be pleased to ascertain in any other way that Government considers fit whether there is truth in such statements ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In a similar momorial addressed to the Government of India in June 1889 the memorialists gave a list of the "pagodas" and "religious institutions," the property of which was alleged to have been unjustly escheated. The Special Settlement Officer, to whom this memorial was referred, reported as follows :—

"Most of the names given are those of private shrines, the owners of which were given a full opportunity of establishing their alleged titles. Where they succeeded, their claims were allowed; but where they failed, their claims were rejected and they were left to seek redress (if they thought they were entitled to any) in the ordinary civil courts. Some of these claims were settled some thirty years ago, and the decisions then arrived at have been acquiesced in and accepted. In other cases the petitioners have omitted to state that special grants of service inam were made for the maintenance of the temples by Government at the settlement, and that the lands which were the subject of those grants are now held by the temple trustees free of all assessment and janmabhogam. The matter printed in the nine volumes of escheat reports submitted by myself, disposes of the allegation that there was no inquiry at all."

In these circumstances, the Government is satisfied that sufficient opportunity was given to the claimants to establish their alleged titles, and therefore considers that no further inquiry is necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

355 [XLII] *Question.*—With reference to the allegations in paragraph 35 of the memorial that "the Revenue Settlement Officer was empowered as a Forest Settlement official to buy up lands on these revenue forests by paying sufficient compensation to the owners, and that in the case of one Mr. Fletcher who owned lands in and out of the forest of Peria, the Forest Officer exerted himself and got the Government to pay him ample compensation, but that instead of granting compensation to the native owners they were intimidated and their lands taken away by violent means," whether Government will be pleased to order inquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The allegations are reported to be wholly untrue. No less than Rs. 7,125 were paid to native right-holders as compensation for the surrender of their admitted rights to Government in the Chedleth and Begur reserves. In all cases, parties dissatisfied had the right of appeal to a superior authority (the District Court) had they cared to exercise it. The Government, therefore, deems it unnecessary to direct any further inquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

356 [XLIII] *Question.*—Whether it is true, as stated in paragraphs 25, 26, 27 that the signatories presented their documents to the Settlement Officer to establish their claims, that no "impartial inquiry" was ever held and that the title-deeds were never returned though the petitioners applied for them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The memorialists' allegation that no impartial inquiry was ever held, appears to be without foundation. All the documents filed, for the return of which the owners applied, are reported to have been returned. In the case of many documents (chiefly cadjans) the owners never applied for their return, and they were for a time retained by the Settlement Officer. Subsequently, however, Mr. Moberly issued a notice to the effect that all such documents would be destroyed unless applied for within a fixed time. The notice was published in the Nilgiri and Malabar Gazettes and copies of the notice were issued for distribution among the janmis in the Nilgiri-Wynaad and the Malabar-Wynaad. As the special Settlement Officer was frequently on tour, the Head Assistant Collector, Nilgiris, and the Deputy Collector of Malabar were entrusted with the duty of returning these documents to claimants after satisfying themselves as to their identity. According to a report received from the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1895, out of 1,306 documents given to the Deputy Collector, 869 had been returned and the remaining 437 were still in his custody; it was reported that many individuals on whom notices had been served calling on them to take delivery of documents had not taken the trouble to come and claim them. In another report from the same authority, dated 20th September 1895, it is stated that out of 124 documents sent to the Head Assistant Collector, it had been found possible to return only three and that no claimants had come forward for the rest, notwithstanding that special notices were again and again published in the Gazettes and also distributed among the janmis.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

357 [XLIV] *Question.*—Whether Government will be pleased to call upon the signatories to substantiate their charges against Settlement officials ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government does not think that any useful purpose would be served by so doing.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANKARAN NAYAR :—

358 [XLV] *Question.*—Whether Government will be pleased to call for a return showing the extent or area of the lands sold and the number of the holdings sold for arrears of revenue in the Wynaad taluk subsequent to the new settlement? Whether Government purchased any of these lands, and if so, to what extent and for what amount? Whether Government will be pleased to call for a similar return for an equal number of years prior to the new settlement?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Returns embodying the information asked for have been received and will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

359 [XLVI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) How long the claims of the members of the Indian Civil Service will defer the full introduction of the Provincial Service Scheme,

(*b*) and when Government proposes to give full effect to the said scheme with regard to the following listed appointments declared open to the Provincial Service, viz., District and Sessions Judges (four), Collectors and Magistrates of Districts (two), and Under Secretary to Government (one)?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The question does not admit of a simple or immediate answer; the information desired will be furnished to the Honourable Member if he will kindly put his question at the next meeting * of the Council.

* 413 *infra*, p. 149.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

360 [XLVII] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., No. 1686 L., dated 14th September 1895, to the effect that 50 per cent. of the local cess together with the net receipts from tolls should be the minimum that should be spent under Communications—New Works and Repairs, will Government be pleased to state for each district the number of schools proposed to be closed and the amount proposed to be withdrawn from Grant II (Education) for the official year 1896-1897)?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The whole of the information available to Government is contained in the budgets of the several Local Boards which have been reviewed by Government and placed at the disposal of the press and to which the Honourable Member is referred.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

361 [XLVIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether, in accordance with the recommendations of the Indian Education Commission, Municipal and Local Fund Boards maintain a separate school fund consisting of—

(*a*) A distinct share of the Municipal or Local Fund revenues to be fixed in each case by the Government;

(*b*) The fees levied in schools wholly maintained at the cost of the Boards;

(*c*) Any assignment that may be made from Provincial or other funds;

(*d*) Any other funds that may be entrusted to the Boards for the promotion of education;

(*e*) Any unexpended balance of school fund from previous years?

If not, will Government be pleased to issue necessary orders for the maintenance of separate school fund. to prevent the lapse, at the end of the official year, of allotments made towards education?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Local Boards and Municipal Councils do not maintain a separate school fund of the character referred to by the Honourable Member and the Government does not consider it necessary at present that they should do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

362 [XLIX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state what is the term of currency of a settlement according to the rules now in force?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The subject is now under correspondence with the Government of India, and the Government is therefore at present unable to answer the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

363 [L] *Question.*—Whether, according to the present policy regulating revisions of assessment, Government leaves untouched a margin of the profits arising from increase of prices with a view of raising the standard of living among agricultural classes; if not, is Government precluded by the orders of the Secretary of State from making some such allowance in the interests of agricultural classes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The claim of Government is one-half the net produce of the soil. Government does not apportion the economic distribution of the profits that are left to the agriculturist. No orders have been received from the Secretary of State on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

364 [LI] *Question.*—With reference to chapter II, section I, revised clause V of the Settlement Manual to the effect that the commutation rate should be deduced from the recorded prices of the standard crop, will Government be pleased to state whether, during the months when the paddy of the current fasli and of the previous fasli is sold in the market,—as for example during the months of February, March and April in the Gódávari and Kistna districts,—the price of paddy entered in the price returns represents the price of the new paddy or the old?

Will Government be pleased to state the instructions issued on the subject for the guidance of subordinate officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government has no information as to whether the price of the new or of the old paddy is recorded in the months in which both descriptions are sold in the market. No instructions appear to have been issued in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

365 [LII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer * of Government given at the meeting of the 18th December 1895 that "a close examination of the nature of the soils in three taluks (of the Gódávari delta) has shown that they are alluvial in character and cannot be described as black regar or as red ferruginous," will Government be pleased to state —

* 273 *supra*, p. 107.

(*a*) The extent of such land and the depth to which generally the surface of the soil is now found to be alluvial;

(*b*) Whether such land includes land not brought under irrigation;

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that the said land was at the last settlement found on careful examination to belong to classes falling under the regar series and other lower classes;

(*d*) If so, whether Government has made inquiries how land of regar and other series, whether brought under irrigation or not, has so altered in its character as to fall under alluvial and exceptional series and with what result?

Will Government be pleased to place on the table the report or extracts from the report of the officer who examined the soils of the Gódávari delta and the order, if any, passed thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) The extent of such land in the deltaic tract of Gódávari is reported to be 363,618 acres. Government is unable to furnish information as to the depth to which the soil is alluvial.

(*b*) Government is unable to furnish the information.

(*c*) The Deputy Commissioner has reported that "many of the originally loamy soils have been converted into rich alluvial clay and loam, and in several cases large areas of land near the coast, which were unfit for cultivation, have become rich alluvial tracts of rice fields.

(*d*) The Government has made no inquiries on the subject. As promised by the Hon'ble Mr. Grose in his answer to question No. XII* on 18th December 1895, a copy of the Deputy Commissioner's Scheme Report No. 571-A, dated 9th November 1895, will shortly be furnished to the Hon'ble Member.

* 272 *supra*, p. 106.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

366 [LIII] *Question.*— (*a*) With reference to G.O., No. 870, dated 26th February 1895, ordering an inquiry regarding the exemption of specified areas or classes of lands in the Gódávari and Kistna deltas from the enhanced water-rate and with reference to the answer † of Government at the meeting of the Council held on the 4th November 1895, will Government be pleased to state the result of the inquiry and place the papers relating thereto on the table?

† 257 *supra*, p. 99.

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether such specified areas or classes of lands include any enfranchised inam lands? If not, are there any special reasons for levying the enhanced rate on all inams without reference to their capacity to bear the enhanced rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) The inquiry has resulted in the decision to exempt from the enhanced water-rate certain lands said to be suffering from poverty of soil, insufficient irrigation, defective drainage, or a combination of these defects. The extent so exempted in the Kistna district is said to be 37,708 acres, and that in the Gódávari district 57,008 acres. The Government does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by laying the papers on the table.

(*b*) The Government is not in possession of definite and full information; further inquiries will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

367 [LIV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the drainage system in many parts of the Gódávari and Kistna deltas is very defective and ryots are consequently put to loss? Will Government be pleased to call for a report on the subject?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—The requirements of the drainage of the Gódávari delta were provided for in the completion estimates and carried out to the extent then considered necessary The matter will be further considered.

In the Kistna delta, the Inampudi, Polraz, Chendrayakodu, Peddakomileru, Pullava and Kanakavalli drains, and Lingala and Vadlamanad affluents in the eastern section and the Tungabhadra widening, the Karenchedu, the Bhatiprole, and the Romperu drains, the Lanjakunta, the Nellamada, the Sakikalva affluents in the western section have been completed from the provision in the delta completion estimates. There is, however, much still to be done towards improving the drainage of the Kistna delta which is being attended to, to the extent to which funds are available. It should be noted that the Government of India having, in compliance with a special representation made, increased the total grant under "49. Capital expenditure not charged to Revenue", a provision of Rs. 1,06,514 for drainage has been made in the current year's budget estimates.

The question of controlling floods in the Budameru river in the Kistna district is now under investigation. It is understood that the Executive Engineer, Kistna Eastern division, has drawn up a report regarding the Colair Lake which affects both the deltas. The report, when received, will receive due consideration.

In these circumstances the Government does not consider it necessary to call for any further report.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

368 [LV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether, in places when the tree-tapping system is in force, the rule that "licenses shall be issued on the application of tree owners for not more than five trees for the drawing of toddy required for domestic purposes but not for sale" is availed of?

If not, will Government be pleased to inquire why the benefit of the rule is not enjoyed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—In the absence of any complaint, it is presumed that rule 1, clause (*f*) of the Tree-tax Rules is availed of. The Government therefore sees no reason at present to make any inquiry into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—

369 [LVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received full reports regarding the damage caused by the floods in the Tambraparni from the Collector of Tinnevelly? and, if received, with the permission of His Excellency, I beg to repeat my questions * (1) In what ways does the Government intend to assist the land-owners in relieving them from the loss they sustained? (2) Will the Government be pleased to say if the sand can be removed from the lands in question by means of machinery? If it can be, is the Government prepared to undergo a moiety of the expense? (3) Will the Government be pleased to allow full remission of tax on lands covered with sand until such lands shall have been rendered fit for cultivation again? (4) Will the Government be pleased to devise means whereby such calamities can be averted in future?

* Same as 301-304 *supra*, p. 117.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—A report has been received from the Collector.

(1) By granting them the usual remissions and by postponing collections of revenue until the demand is settled at jamabandi.

In twelve villages of the Srivaikuntam taluk the Collector recommended that the ryots should be allowed the concession of growing dry crops on their wet lands till the end of March on payment of dry assessment only, even though Government water may be used, and the Board has sanctioned this concession.

The Collector has also instructed Tahsildars to grant loans under the Loans Acts to persons who may apply for such loans for the restoration of lands which have been silted up.

(2) The answer to the first part of the question is, "The Government knows of no machinery which could be used to effect the purpose mentioned," and to the second part is "No".

(3) Such remissions only will be granted as are admissible under the remission rules.

(4) The regulation of excessive floods is a matter of extreme difficulty, but the Public Works Department will endeavour to devise measures to prevent the recurrence of breaches in the river banks.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

370 [LVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the terms and conditions under which Mr. R. A. Nelson, Barrister-at-Law, was appointed as Principal of the Law College for five years? Has the term expired and is his term of office extended? if so, under what conditions? Was it one of the conditions, when he originally came out to Madras, that he should not practise as an Advocate of the High Court? Is the same condition retained in the present agreement? Does the Principal of the Law College get exchange compensation allowance?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Mr. Nelson was engaged on the following main terms :—

(1) that he should devote his whole time to the duties of his office and should not engage, directly or indirectly, in any trade, business or occupation on his own account;

(2) that he should be at liberty as a Barrister-at-Law to take consulting or chamber practice, provided it did not interfere with the due performance of his duties as Principal;

(3) that the Government should pay him a salary of Rs. 1,200 per mensem but no leave allowance or pension; and

(4) that the Government might at any time dispense with his services without notice for misconduct on his part or for a breach by him of any of the above conditions.

The original term of five years will expire in May next. The question of its extension is under consideration and no settlement of the conditions of any extension has yet been arrived at. Mr. Nelson was in receipt of exchange compensation allowance until the 14th March 1896, when it appeared from a ruling of the Government of India that he was not entitled to it

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

371 [LVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received any complaints from the Sub-Inspectors and Shroffs of the Salt Department regarding the lodging accommodation that is given them in the Salt Factories? Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is their intention to give them more suitable and spacious accommodation in factories?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—No such complaints have been received from the Sub-Inspectors or Shroffs. The Government does not, as a rule, undertake to provide accommodation for officers of these classes.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

372 [LIX] *Question.*—Is it true that Mr. A. S. Kearns, an Inspector of the Salt and Abkári Department of the third grade, has been promoted to the office of Assistant Commissioner superseding about 24 Inspectors who are Mr. Kearns' seniors in rank or service? if so, will the Government be pleased to say what exceptional services Mr. Kearns has rendered to Government to justify such exceptional treatment?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—The number of officers below the Acting Assistant Commissioners, Messrs. Simpson and Sherman, and above Mr. Kearns is nine. His Excellency Lord Wenlock, the late Governor, considered Mr. Kearns to be the officer best qualified for the post.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

373 [LX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is aware that the Hindu and Mappilla public of Ponnáni in the Malabar district have established a new middle school at a cost of about Rupees 5,000 raised by public subscription?

(2) whether the Mappillas of Ponnáni have submitted a petition to the Director of Public Instruction for the recognition of the school with a view to send their children to it?

(3) whether the Assistant Inspector of Schools made any recommendation for the recognition of this school? and if so, will the Government be pleased to order it to be placed before the Council?

(4) whether it is true that the Director of Public Instruction has refused to recognize the school?

The Hon'ble Mr. Duncan :—

Answer.—(1) Early last year certain Hindus and Mappillas established a lower secondary school at Ponnáni, the cost of which is not known.

(2) I received a petition purporting to come from certain Mappillas at the close of last year, requesting recognition of the school.

(3) The Assistant Inspector recommended conditional recognition. The Hon'ble Member will be furnished with a copy of the Assistant Inspector's report.

(4) Yes, on the score that the Madras Educational Rules had not been complied with; when they are, the school will be recognized.

18. MEETING OF THE 9TH DECEMBER 1896.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

374 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table Mr. Winterbotham's report on the late Mappilla disaster, and the order of Government thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—Mr. Winterbotham's reports and the orders thereon have already been placed at the disposal of the Press. A copy of them will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

375 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to institute a better scheme of education for Muhammadans in Malabar than has hitherto been observed, and to appoint a few Muhammadan officers of the grade of Deputy Collector and District Munsif in that district for their guidance?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member apparently refers more especially to the education of Mappillas. Since the outbreak of 1894, Mappillas have been admitted to the privileges which are conferred upon the "backward classes" by the Grant-in-Aid Code; an additional sub-assistant inspector and two inspecting schoolmasters of Mappilla schools have been appointed; a number of primary schools intended for Mappillas exclusively have been opened and a Mappilla scholarship scheme has been sanctioned. The Director of Public Instruction has recently been requested to report the degree of success which has attended these measures, and when his report is received the extent to which the system can be improved or extended will be duly considered.

The Government considers it undesirable to make special arrangements for the appointment of Muhammadan Deputy Collectors in Malabar. The posting and appointment of District Munsifs vest in the High Court.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

376 [III] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state when and under what circumstances they issued orders to heads of departments to see that the Muhammadans get a proper share in the public service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In 1872 the Government had under consideration the unsatisfactory condition of Muhammadan education, and, referring to the decreasing number of Muhammadans employed in the public service and to the alleged impression that the Government and its officers were disinclined to employ them, whether qualified or not, His Excellency the Governor in Council expressed an earnest desire that this impression should be dispelled in the most speedy and convincing manner by the employment, as opportunity offered, of a fair proportion of those Muhammadans who had passed the prescribed qualifying tests and by the promotion, according to their merits, of those who were already employed. Since then the attention of the heads of departments has repeatedly been called to these instructions, and from 1886 the extent to which Muhammadans are employed in offices under Government has been noticed annually in the administration reports.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

377 [IV] *Question.*—Has any improvement been made since? If so, what in the matter of appointments which carry with them salaries of Rs. 50 and upwards?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Yes. Particulars of appointments which carry a pay of Rs. 50 and upwards per mensem are not available, but it may be stated that on the 1st April 1886, 130 out of 3,672, or 3·5 per cent. of the total number of appointments carrying a pay of over Rs. 500 per annum or nearly Rs. 42 per mensem, were held by Muhammadans, and that on the 1st April 1896 the percentage was 4·2, or, in other words, 170 out of 4,053 such appointments were then held by Muhammadans.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

378 [V] *Question.*—Considering that some appointments are reserved for Europeans only, will the Government be pleased to make a similar arrangement until a fair proportion of appointments in the higher branches of the public service is occupied by Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared, having regard to the interests of the public service, to make any such arrangement. It must be remembered that Muhammadans are only 6·3 per cent. of the total population.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

379 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to pass early orders on the recommendations made by the Board of Muhammadan Education?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Orders on the recommendations made by the Board of Muhammadan Education, except on those relating to the improvement of the Madrasa-i-Azam, have been passed by Government and an extract from them will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member. Orders on the questions relating to the improvement of the Madrasa-i-Azam will be passed as soon as a site for the new buildings in which it is proposed to establish it has been secured. Strenuous efforts are being made to secure such a site.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

380 [VII] *Question.*—Is the Government aware:

(*a*) That the income-tax is levied on the information furnished by village officers and low-paid amins without proper check from responsible higher officials.

(*b*) That such information is based generally on rumours, local news, etc., without any authenticity.

(*c*) That persons are thereby unnecessarily harassed in being required to put in objection petitions, which in most cases are dismissed for trivial reasons, such as out of time, default of appearance, want of systematic accounts, etc.

(*d*) That men of very low means can hardly maintain proper accounts, the cost of which itself would exceed what they may be liable for.

(*e*) That great inconvenience and loss are caused to merchants and men of other professions in being obliged to move in camp with Revenue officers for days together and march long distances.

Will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee consisting of three or four non-official Members of the Legislative Council to scrutinise the accounts of Madras district, and of any other district, which the committee may choose, and report to the Government, after collecting evidence from merchants and others; and also to adopt such other procedures as may remove all disadvantages?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The income-tax assessments are fixed by the superior Revenue officials who, in making their assessments, are frequently guided by the information furnished by village officers or other individuals

who are in a position to know the circumstances of the assessees. It is the duty of every assessing officer to scrutinize such information with care, and the Government has no reason to suppose that this duty is not properly performed. As to whether the information is generally authentic or the reverse, the Government can obviously express no opinion.

(*c*) Assessees are under no obligation to put in objection petitions, and the right to do so cannot seriously be regarded as a source of harassment. So far as the Government is aware, such petitions are not "in most cases dismissed for trivial reasons." Should any individual assessee feel himself aggrieved by the order passed on his petition, he has a right of appeal to the Income-Tax Commissioner under section 27 of Act II of 1886.

(*d*) The Government has no reason to suppose that income-tax assessees are prevented by poverty from maintaining proper accounts

(*e*) Assessees to income-tax are in exactly the same position as other persons who have business to transact with Revenue officers, whose duty requires them to itinerate and who have many other functions to perform. A certain amount of inconvenience to such persons cannot always be avoided. Revenue officers are well aware that it is their duty to obviate such inconvenience as far as may be possible, and the Government has no reason to suppose that this duty is neglected.

The Government does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by appointing a committee as suggested by the Hon'ble Member. There are inherent difficulties in the assessment and collection of income-tax, but the orders which have from time to time been issued by the Board of Revenue and by Government are calculated to minimize the friction incidental to the working of the Act, and the Government is not aware of any change in procedure which would tend to further improvement in this direction.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

381 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to inform what measures are adopted for the improvement of the Pariah community.

(*b*) Is the Government aware that there is great discontentment among certain backward classes of the Hindu and other communities equally deserving, if not more, of Government's help?

(*c*) Considering that agricultural methods are of a very backward nature in Southern India, will the Government be pleased to offer liberal inducement to European and other enterprising men so as to enable them to invest capital towards introducing new and improved means of agriculture, so that the native farmer may be benefited by it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The measures adopted by Government are stated in certain papers already placed on the Editors' table. A list of these papers will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member, and the Superintendent, Government Press, will supply him with copies thereof on application.

(*b*) The Government is not aware of such discontent.

(*c*) The Government is not aware of any adequate inducement which could be offered for the purpose mentioned consistently with the interests of the general tax-payer, and would be grateful to the Hon'ble Member if he could suggest the form which such an inducement should take.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

382 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Does the Madras Railway Company maintain schools for the benefit of the children of its employés? If so, are they open to all classes?

(*b*) Where are they located and what is the cost of their maintenance?

(*c*) Does not the Government think that the children of the other classes of the Railway employés should also be benefited in receiving education in these schools?

(*d*) Considering the great inconvenience to third-class passengers for want of closets, will the Government be pleased to call upon the Railway authorities to adopt measures for providing them?

(*e*) In view of the fact that no provision is made for gosha compartments, will the Government be pleased to take steps to save Muhammadans from the necessity of having to engage a whole compartment for the sake of even a single gosha lady?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Madras Railway maintains schools for the benefit of the children of its employés; these schools are open to Europeans and Eurasians only.

(*b*) They are located at Perambúr, Jalarpet, Salem, Pódanúr, Renigunta, Gooty, Raichur and Arkonam. The cost to the Railway Company is Rs. 11,520 per annum.

(*c*) Government can control the amount of money spent on the schools, but it has no power to dictate to the Railway Company in the matter of admitting certain classes of its employés. There are usually native schools where the children of native employés can receive instruction, but in up-country stations such as those shown above there are no facilities for the education of English-speaking children except such as are provided by the Railway Company.

(*d*) Water-closets are provided in carriages reserved for women. The experiment has been tried before on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway of providing water-closets in all carriages, and after a short trial it was found that it was undesirable on account of the free use made of them at stations. Latrines are provided at all stations, and in England and in most other countries no other provision is made. It is doubtful whether the average journey of the Indian third-class passenger is of longer duration than in England: a copy of the question asked on this subject at the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council held on the 7th February 1895, together with the answer given to it, is published at pages 1 and 2 of the supplement to the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 5th March 1895, from which the Hon'ble Member will see that the Government of India is not prepared to consider the proposal made by him.

(*e*) Separate carriages are reserved for women, in which gosha women can travel. If separate compartments were reserved for gosha women, the expense would be utterly out of proportion to the fares received.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

383 [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to rule that all young Civilians should undergo Tahsildar's training for a period of at least six months?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government sees no reason to modify the course of training which newly-arrived members of the Indian Civil Service now undergo.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

384 [XI] *Question.*—Considering the unsteadiness of seasons for the past few years, does not the Government think it desirable to adopt measures for saving ryots from constant losses?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The methods by which the unsteadiness of the seasons can, in the opinion of Government, be best mitigated, is by the extension of railways and of irrigation—matters which have received, and continue to receive, the anxious attention of Government.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

385 [XII] *Question.*—What is the approximate amount spent till now towards the maintenance of the Agricultural College and the Farm, &c., at Saidapet ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The approximate cost comes to about 8 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

386 [XIII] *Question.*—In what way has the country benefited by it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Among the benefits which the country has derived from the College of Agriculture may be enumerated—

(i) The spread of agricultural education.

(ii) The supply of trained subordinates for the Agricultural and Civil Veterinary Departments.

(iii) The supply to the Revenue and Forest Departments of a number of subordinates who are acquainted with the theory and practice of agriculture.

(iv) The diffusion of a knowledge of improved implements, of stock and dairy management, of deep cultivation, of manure and of other matters intimately connected with improvement in agriculture through the agency of the students.

(v) The general awakening of interest in agricultural matters.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

387 [XIV] *Question.*—Has the agriculture of the country been in any way improved ? If so, in what way ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The question covers so vast a field that it is impossible for the Government to furnish the Hon'ble Member with a simple answer. So far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, information in regard to such improvements as have been effected will be found in the published administration reports of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, to which the Hon'ble Member will be referred.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

388 [XV] *Question.*—Does not the Government think that steps hitherto taken towards the improvement of agriculture are not enough, and the ryots are too poor and helpless to improve it themselves ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government considers that further measures should be adopted from time to time for improving agriculture, and this difficult subject consequently continues to engage its attention. The Government does not believe the ryots to be generally "poor and helpless"; but on the contrary is convinced that, as a class, they are well able to take care of their own interests in this respect and will readily adopt improvements in agricultural methods which are brought to their notice when the advantage to be derived therefrom is demonstrated to their satisfaction.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

389 [XVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to adopt better measures than have hitherto been adopted for the purpose, as, for instance, of obtaining lease of ten to fifteen acres in each taluk from ryots and prove by actual improved means of cultivation the advantages of the new system as a practical lesson to the owner of the land and his neighbours ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider the scheme suggested by the Hon'ble Member to be practicable; but he will, no doubt, be glad to hear that orders have recently been issued directing the establishment for a similar purpose of an experimental farm at Bellary or Coimbatore. Should the working of this farm prove a success, the Government will, in all probability, establish others in different parts of the Presidency.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

390 [XVII] *Question.*—Does the Government think that the state of the Muhammadan community is satisfactory, especially in the matter of education ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Of Muhammadan boys and girls of school age, 47·8 per cent. and 9·6 per cent., respectively, were, on the 31st March 1896, under instruction, the percentages of male and female scholars to the total male and female population of school age in all classes being 25·8 and 4·1 respectively. Again, 1 in every 23 of the Muhammadan part of the population is under instruction against 1 in 45 of the whole population. With regard to the stage or class of instruction—collegiate, secondary or primary —the percentages of Muhammadan boys to the total number of Muhammadan boys of school-going age, as compared with the Presidency averages for all sections of the community, are—

	Muhammadan.	Presidency.
Collegiate	·03	·1
Secondary	1·0	1·6
Primary	33·1	20·3

These figures serve to show that the education of Muhammadans, as compared with general population, cannot, at any rate in respect of elementary education, be fairly regarded now as unsatisfactory. The Director of Public Instruction has recorded the opinion—in which the Government concurs—that "the statistics appended to the annual reports will convince any reader that, so far as elementary education is concerned, Muhammadans are far ahead of Hindus, Brahmans excepted. In colleges and upper secondary schools, they are, no doubt, not properly represented. This is chiefly due to their beginning study late in life and to an over-anxiety on their part to settle in life soon.

The Hon'ble Member will find full details as to the present state of education among Muhammadans in Chapter IX of the Public Instruction Report for 1895-96.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

391 [XVIII] *Question.*—Has the Government adopted special measures to improve them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Yes. The Government has taken special measures to improve the state of Muhammadan education. Among these measures are the following :—All schools for Muhammadans are treated as "poor schools" for the purposes of the Grant-in-aid Code, irrespective of the proportion of poor pupils therein, and Muhammadan pupils are accordingly allowed result grants at 25 per cent. more than the standard rates. Half the regular fees are remitted in the case of Muhammadan pupils in all schools and colleges. Fifty-four scholarships at varying rates are provided for Muhammadan pupils (including Mappillas) on the results of the Primary, Lower Secondary and Matriculation examinations; scholarships granted on the results of the F.A. examination are open only to girls, backward classes, Muhammadans and Uriyas; special scholarships for Muhammadans to enable

them to read in Professional colleges have been established; separate schools for the exclusive benefit of Muhammadans are also maintained; there are special schools for training Muhammadan masters and mistresses, and a special inspecting agency consisting of five Sub-Assistant Inspectors of Schools and 21 inspecting schoolmasters.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

392 [XIX] *Question.*—Does the Government think that those measures have had the desired effect ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Government first extended exceptional educational facilities to Muhammadans in 1872. On the 31st March of that year, the number of Muhammadan boys at school was 4·1 per cent. of the total number under instruction in the schools of the Presidency. Ten years later, in 1882, the proportion was 6·4 per cent., and now in 1896 it is 12·1 per cent. The percentages of Muhammadan boys and girls at school on 31st March 1882 to those of a school-going age of the same community were 15·1 and ·7, respectively, while on 31st March 1896 the percentages were 47·8 and 9·6. It can therefore be said that these efforts have had the desired effect, though Government would be glad to see that they had more effect.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

393 & 394 *Questions*—**393** [XX].—Does the Government consider that the Muhammadans have helped themselves in the past, and that their condition is likely to improve if they are left without extraneous aid ?

394 [XXI].—Does the Government consider it desirable that more than two millions of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, fifty-three thousands of whom are in the City of Madras should remain in ignorance, poverty and discontent ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

393 } *Answer.*—The Government cannot undertake to answer such specula-
394 } tive questions.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

395 [XXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee consisting of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Educational portfolio, the Hon'ble Mr. Crole, President of the Board of Muhammadan Education, the Hon'ble Dr. Duncan, Director of Public Instruction, with power to add to their number, to ascertain the present condition of the Muhammadans and to make suitable suggestions for the assistance of Government in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to this question is "No".

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

396 [XXIII] *Question.*—The present state of the season being bad, will the Government be pleased to grant loans to ryots on an extensive scale for the purpose of sinking wells ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—In view of the present state of the season, the Government has recently raised by one lakh the Board of Revenue's estimates of the amounts likely to be required during the current and the ensuing years for advances under to Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts. For the same reason the Government of India was recently addressed to sanction the reduction from Rs. 100 to Rs. 50 of the minimum amount which can be advanced under the rules framed under the Land Improvement Loans Act and sanction to the change has just been received. District Officers are aware of the importance which the Government attaches to this matter, and the Government has no doubt that advances for the construction of wells will be freely granted where necessary.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

397 [XXIV] *Question.*—Does the Government think that the ryots have freely taken advantage of the State loans as they ought, if not, what are the reasons for it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Yes, in view of the fact that advances have during the last nine years been made to the extent of some 57 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

398 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Does the Government consider that the officers entrusted with the grant of loans can devote enough time for this work ?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to appoint special officers ?

(*c*) Will the Government reduce the rate of interest so as to afford better facilities to poor ryots ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes, in ordinary circumstances.

(*b*) If not, special establishments will be appointed as they have been in the past.

(*c*) No. The Government cannot undertake to lend money at so low a rate of interest that it loses by the transaction.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

399 [XXVI] *Question.*—Whether the Government is aware of the fact that the minors under the Court of Wards, now being educated at Madras, are annually taken away to Ootacamund for a period of three months ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is aware that the Court has in recent years permitted the minors to spend some portion of the hot weather at Ootacamund.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

400 & 401 *Questions.*—**400** [XXVII].—Whether the Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of putting a stop to the practice under observation, and allow the minors to spend their vacations in their native places under the care of their natural guardians ?

401 [XXVIII].—Whether in the opinion of the Government it is not more beneficial, to the minors under the Court of Wards to have for their Head Tutor a retired Civilian or Military Officer ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

400 } *Answer.*—The supervision of the minors during their term of wardship
401 } is by law vested in the Court and the Government has no authority in the matter.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

402 [XXIX] *Question.*—Whether the Government could see their way to direct the Collectors of districts to see that all the zamindar pupils in their respective districts, both those under the Court of Wards as well as those not under the Court

of Wards, are being properly educated, and with the same view direct the Educational Department to authorize the Inspectors of Schools to examine all the zamindar pupils they come across in their inspection *tours* ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Under Regulation V of 1804, it is the duty of the Court of Wards to attend to the education of the pupils under its charge and sub-section 9 of section 21 of the Regulation distinctly provides that "the progress of the education of male *minors* shall be at all times liable to the inquiries and inspection of Collectors." As regards such pupils not under the charge of the Court of Wards, the Government is not prepared to direct Collectors to take action in the manner suggested by the Hon'ble Member. Nor is the Government prepared to direct the Inspectors of the Educational Department to examine and report upon all zamindar pupils. It is open to any Collector in charge of zamindar wards to get a report upon them from an Inspector should he see special occasion to require one.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

403 [XXX] *Question.*— Whether in consideration of the backward state of education among the zamindars, and with a view to creating a spirit of mutual emulation among them, the Government will be pleased to request the University to admit the zamindar pupils, at least as a matter of concession, at the B.A. degree examination without the production of the F.A. certificate, in such subjects as they are prepared in, provided the District Collector or the Inspector of Schools certifies that a particular pupil has made progress enough to justify his application so to appear, and to publish the results of such examinees as an addenda to the results of the regular University candidates ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to deny that the state of education among zamindars is more backward than it ought to be among this wealthy class of the community. But this backwardness is due mostly to their home surroundings, which Government cannot make what they ought to be. It is for the zamindars themselves to do what is wanted in this respect. The Government disapproves the Hon'ble Member's suggestion and will not move the University to take action in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

404 [XXXI] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been called to an article in the *Hindu* of the 19th June 1896 to the effect that the Jail authorities at Vellore acted illegally and cruelly towards a prisoner, a respectable mirasidar, pending his appeal and after a warrant for his release issued by the Appellate Court had been handed over to the Jail officials ?

Has the Government directed any inquiry to be made respecting the said allegations, and will it be pleased to place on the table the papers relating to the subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has perused the article referred to. A petition having been received from the prisoner, an inquiry was held and the order affecting him passed thereon was communicated to him. The Government does not consider it necessary to place the papers on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

* Same as 51 (1) *infra*, p. 165.

* **405** [XXXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been called to the conduct of Mr. Vaughan, Joint Magistrate of North Arcot, during the trial of the calendar case, No. 65 of 1896, on his file ?

Whether it is a fact that Mr. Vaughan limited by time the right of the accused to cross-examine the witnesses called on behalf of the prosecution ?

Whether it is a fact that he refused to record material parts of the proceeding before him, and that in the case of one important witness the Rev. Mr. Chamberlain, he made no record at all of his cross-examination beyond a few symbols such as—.Ö. .Ö.—which he, Mr. Vaughan, interpreted to the District Magistrate to mean that nothing material was elicited in cross-examination ?

Whether Mr. Vaughan's account of what had taken place before him in the course of the trial was found by the District Magistrate on investigation to be inaccurate.

Whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate has recorded his opinion that the action of Mr. Vaughan in court and his action in giving him (District Magistrate) an inaccurate version are "serious matters"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is not in possession of complete information on the matters referred to, but has called for a report.

The Hon'ble MR. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR.—

406 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the new office of Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, has been created ?

Whether the office is a temporary or permanent one ?

Whether it is open to the Provincial Civil Service as well ?

Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table its correspondence on this subject with the Government of India and the Secretary of State ?

His Excellency the President :—

Answer.—The work devolving on the Chief Secretary had grown in the course of years to such *dimensions* that relief became essential in the interests of the public service. The number of receipts and disposals rose from 24,001 in 1874 to 44,259 in 1890 and to 51,040 in 1895, while other demands on the time of the Chief Secretary had concurrently increased.

The office is permanent and is not open to the Provincial Service.

This Government's representation on the subject will be placed on the table. No further papers can be made available.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

407 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Reserve and Store Inspectors in the Police Department are all Europeans with the exception of the two Inspectors at Parlákimedi and Balliguda, in the Ganjám district, and that with one exception none of them has passed any of the qualifying tests ?

Is G.O., No. 1026, dated 17th May 1893, which says that the effect of G.O., No. 2060, dated 3rd December 1889, should be understood to mean that no Reserve Inspector shall be allowed to go beyond the lowest grade unless he has passed the required tests, still in force ? Is it a fact that some Reserve Inspectors who have not passed the required tests have been promoted from the lowest grade subsequent to the said Government Order of 1893 ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state under what circumstances ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—All the Reserve and Store Inspectors but three are Europeans or Eurasians. With one exception, none, whether European, Eurasian or Native, has passed any examinations. The order of 1893 is no longer in force, and Reserve and Store Inspectors are not required to have passed any tests.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

408 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many officers there are in the Imperial Branch of the Forest Service in this Presidency who have been promoted to it from the subordinate staff prior to the introduction of the re-organization scheme of 1891 and when the last promotion of the kind was made ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said re-organization scheme put a stop to any such promotions thenceforward ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that, under this re-organization scheme, six Deputy Conservatorships were to be transferred from the Imperial to the Provincial Forest Service in this Presidency ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that since 1891 the home recruitment has been adjusted on the basis of the re-organization scheme so as to allow of twelve appointments being transferred from the Indian to the Provincial list between the years 1891 and 1895 ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that no appointment in the Imperial Branch has been as yet thrown open to the Provincial Branch available for this Presidency ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Government of India has communicated to this Government a resolution to the effect that no transfer of Deputy Conservatorships from the Imperial to the Provincial list would be made until all the Assistant Conservators including those expected to arrive in consequence of the home recruitment this year, as well, are made Deputy Conservators ?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has taken any, and what, steps to remove the hardship thus occasioned to the officers of the Provincial Branch of the Forest Service in this Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) There is at present only one officer in the Imperial Branch of the Forest Service in this Presidency who was promoted to it from the subordinate staff of the Madras Forest Department prior to the introduction of the re-organization scheme of 1891. The last promotion of the kind was made in August 1889.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) It is a fact that, under the re-organization scheme as finally settled, six Deputy Conservatorships are to be so transferred.

(*d*) The Government understands that, on a consideration of the state of the Indian list of 1890, it was decided by the Government of India that it was possible to transfer twelve appointments to the Provincial list between 1891 and 1895 and that the home recruitment was re-adjusted on this basis.

(*e*) It is a fact that in this Presidency no appointment in the Imperial Branch has yet been transferred to the Provincial list.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The Government is not aware that any avoidable hardship has been occasioned by the introduction of the re-organization in question.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

409 [XXXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether, previous to appointing Mr. Munro and Mr. Kuppuswamy Iyer as Subordinate Judges, the High Court was consulted ?

(*b*) Whether the appointment of Mr. Munro, a member of the Indian Civil Service, as Subordinate Judge, was in pursuance of a new policy, and whether the Government will be pleased to declare the nature and scope of that policy and to place on the table the correspondence on the subject with the Indian Government and the Secretary of State for India ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is "No."

(*b*) Mr. Munro was appointed in order that he might obtain experience in civil judicial work. The Government has under consideration the question of appointing other members of the Indian Civil Service to similar posts with the same object, but, as the matter is still under correspondence with the Government of India, the papers cannot be laid upon the table. The correspondence relating to the appointment of Mr. Munro is so connected with the correspondence on the general question that the same answer must be given respecting it.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

410 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to make a statement with regard to the distress prevailing in some of the districts of the Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—A copy of the letter despatched to the Government of India on this subject will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member. Information as to the state of the affected districts since then, and as to the measures adopted by Government, may be obtained from the reports of the District officers placed on the Editors' Table and from the abstracts of the season reports published by the Board of Revenue in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The Board has been requested to report on the effects of the recent rains.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

411 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—Whether Government proposes to order the suspension of the collection of kists in districts, or parts of districts, where distress prevails ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government contemplates the grant of such relief where it may be necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

412 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each district the normal, the warning and the scarcity rates of food-grains fixed by Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—A copy of the Board's Proceedings containing the statement required will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

***413** [XL] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state— *Same as 359 *supra*,

(*a*) How long the claims of the members of the Indian Civil Service will defer the full introduction of the Provincial Service scheme ;

(*b*) and when Government proposes to give full effect to the said scheme with regard to the following listed appointments declared open to the Provincial Service, viz., District and Sessions Judges (four), Collectors and Magistrates of districts (two), and Under Secretary to Government (one) ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) All Indian Civilians down to and including Mr. M. D. Bell, No. 65 in the Civil List, must have their claims to a permanent Collectorate or Judgeship considered before such an appointment can be handed over either to the Statutory or to the Provincial Civil Service. The Civilians below

Mr. M. D. Bell in the list are entitled to have their legitimate claims to promotion safeguarded by providing that the extent to which promotion in the listed posts may be given to Statutory Civilians and to members of the Provincial Service combined shall not, except in special circumstances, exceed the extent to which, at the time of their recruitment, Statutory appointments might have been made under the rules of 1879.

(*b*) Owing to the uncertainty of the factors determining promotion it is impossible to fix the time.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

414 [XLI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to obtain, for the years during which the tree-tax rules have been in force, information as to the number of licenses issued to tree-owners in each district under Rule 1, clause (*f*), of the tree-tax rules, for the drawing of toddy required for domestic purposes, and place the same on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The information will be called for and placed on the table when received.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

* 275 *supra*, p. 107.

415 [XLII] *Question.*—With reference to question No. XV * asked at the meeting of the Council held in December 1895, and the answer of Government thereto that the "inquiry suggested by the Hon'ble Member will be made and if the result should show that a change in the date of instalments with respect to the Government demand on Gódávari and Kistna lankas is called for, the question of how they may be suitably fixed will be considered," will Government be pleased to state the result of such inquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member will be furnished with a copy of G.O., No. 652, Revenue, dated 20th November 1896, from which it will be seen that the Government has decided to collect the rent or revenue due on the lanka lands in the Gódávari and Kistna districts along with the three instalments for wet lands in those districts, which fall due in January, February and March.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 289 *supra*, p. 113.

416 [XLIII] *Question.*—With reference to the inquiries promised to be made in answer to question No. VIII † asked at the meeting of the Council held in February 1896, will Government be pleased to state the result of the said inquiries and the date fixed for the payment of Government demand for the second crop raised by a ryot?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The subject has been referred to the Board of Revenue and its reply has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

‡ 291 *supra*, p. 114.

417 [XLIV] *Question.*—With reference to the answer ‡ given at the meeting of the Council held in February 1896 by the Hon'ble Colonel McNeil Campbell that "the rules for the distribution of water in the Gódávari delta were circulated for adoption" in January 1895, will Government be pleased to state whether the rules have been brought into force? If not, what is the cause of the delay?

Will Government be pleased to state whether the rules will be brought into force before the commencement of the next fasli?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—I request the Hon'ble Member to be good enough to repeat the question at the next meeting * of the Council.

* 492 *infra*, p. 177.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 362 *supra*, p. 133.

418 [XLV] *Question.*—With reference to question No. XLIX † asked at the last meeting of the Council, and the answer thereto, will Government be pleased to state whether it has been decided what should be the term of currency of a settlement?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The policy approved is to respect reasonable expectations based upon past practice, but special circumstances may necessitate an abbreviation of the usual term. The question whether they do so is one to be decided in each case upon its separate merits.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

‡ 364 *supra*, p. 133.

419 [XLVI] *Question.*—With reference to the question No. LI ‡ asked at the last meeting of the Council whether the price of paddy entered in the price returns represents the price of the new or of the old paddy, and the answer thereto, will Government be pleased to state if any enquiry has been made on the subject, and, if so, with what result; if not, will Government be pleased to obtain the necessary information and place the same on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The matter is now under enquiry and the Government is therefore unable for the present to reply fully to the Hon'ble Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

420 [XLVII] *Question.*—With reference to the Deputy Commissioner's Scheme Report, No. 571-A, dated 9th November 1895, in connection with which the reports of the Collector, the Sub-Collector and the Treasury Deputy Collector, Gódávari, and of the Tahsildar of Rámachandrapuram, have been placed at the disposal of the press, will Government be pleased to place on the table the reports made by the other Divisional officers and Tahsildars of the Gódávari district in the same matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The only reports which the Government has seen are those printed with Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 43, dated 12th March 1896, a copy of which has already been furnished to the Hon'ble Member. The Collector apparently considered that the reports received from other officers were not sufficiently important for submission either to the Board or to the Government, and the Government does not think it necessary now to obtain and place them on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

421 [XLVIII] *Question.*—With reference to the following observations made by the Deputy Commissioner in paragraph 59 of his Scheme report, dated 9th November 1895, No. 571-A, that "this—the Central delta—has been neglected, and the original scheme for distributing the anicut supply does not seem to have been fully executed. The general complaint in some villages is that a sufficient supply of water to enable the ryots to commence cultivation is not sent down the channels till the latter part of July. This makes the season late, and the consequence is that, when the heavy rains of October and November set in, the paddy plants are not strong enough to withstand the heavy downpour and temporary submersion. The

Central delta until quite recently formed a portion of the western division, but it now constitutes a separate division and I understand that a considerable sum of money is to be spent in improving the irrigation", will Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent on improving the irrigation of the said delta since it has been constituted into a separate division?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer—The Gódávari Central delta division was formed into a separate division on 1st September 1895. The expenditure incurred on irrigation and agricultural works in that division was Rs. 1,02,833 in 1895-96 and Rs. 85,485 during the current year to end of October last. The current year's grant is Rs. 1,47,938.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

422 [XLIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether Government ruled, in ordering inquiry whether any specified areas or classes of lands should be exempted from the enhanced water-rate, that the area to be so exempted should not exceed 15 per cent. of the wet area, and whether in consequence thereof nearly 25,000 of zeroyati land in the Gódávari district recommended for exemption was not exempted?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state, if that be the case, why such a limit was considered to be necessary, and place on the table the G.O., Mis. No. 4856, dated 2nd December 1895?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The limit was imposed because the Government did not consider that sufficient cause had been shown for further exemption. The Government Order referred to by the Hon'ble Member cannot be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble MR. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

423 [L] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any members of the Civil Service own estates on the Nilgiri Hills?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have been any encroachments on public property by any of them? and, if so, by how many acres?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any one of these estates has been the subject-matter of correspondence with the Board of Revenue?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) So far as the Government is aware, no members of the Indian Civil Service own "estates" on the Nilgiri Hills, i.e., lands held for agricultural purposes. Three members, or their near relatives, are known to own houses for residence with compound attached.

(*b*) There is no information available to answer this question.

(*c*) There was some correspondence with the Board of Revenue about the property of one officer but that related to a water dispute and not to an encroachment on public land.

The Hon'ble MR. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

424 [LI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not advisable to transfer District Surgeons from the stations after a period of three years, as it is the case with the District Munsifs?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to order the transfers of each of them as are in stations for a period of more than three years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is not prepared to pass a rule to this effect.

(*b*) The answer to this is included in the preceding answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

425 [LII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the statement made in papers that the Secretary of State has not sanctioned the re-organization scheme of the Registration Department submitted by this Government? If so, on what grounds?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The scheme has not yet been forwarded to the Secretary of State, but is still under correspondence with the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

426 [LIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state why was the Sub-Court at Mangalore transferred to Nellore?

Has the Government received any representation from the people of Mangalore on the subject? and how has it been disposed of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Sub-Court has been transferred to Nellore on the recommendation of the High Court to assist in clearing off arrears of work in that district. As to the latter part of the question the answer is "Yes." The memorialists have been informed that the Government is unable to comply with their requests.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

427 [LIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to an article in the *Hindu* of the 18th November 1896 regarding the assignment of darkhast lands to a missionary in the village of Mannúr in the taluk of Conjeeveram in spite of the protest from the ryots of the said village?

(*b*) Is it not the rule, laid down by the Revenue Board, that the mirasidars and other ryots of a village have a preferential right to outsiders for waste land? On what grounds have lands in this instance been given to a stranger?

(*c*) Will the Government cause a return to be furnished of all lands assigned to missionaries in the district of Chingleput on darkhast applications, stating their area and the names of the pattadars holding them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this question is "No".

(*b*) The rules on the subject will be found in the Board's Standing Orders. The Government is not aware that the lands referred to were assigned to a stranger.

(*c*) The Government sees no reason to call for such a return.

The Hon'ble MR. SUBBA RAO PANTULU *for* the Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

428 [LV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it will revise the Government Order granting franchise to graduates for election of Fellows to the University?

Does it not think it advisable to reduce the qualifications of voters to ten years' standing instead of twenty years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The rules for the election of Fellows of the University were framed only in 1893 and the Government is not at present prepared to revise them.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

429 [LVI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer to question XXI* put by me at the meeting of the Council on the 18th day of December 1895 in the matter of the felling of babul trees in the Cuddapah district, will the Government be pleased to afford information on the several points therein mentioned, if it is now in a position to do so?

* 281 *supra*, p. 110.

† Clauses (*a*) to (*f*) are the same as clauses (*a*) to (*f*) of question 281.

† (*a*) Is it a fact that certain officials in the Cuddapah district grossly abused the privilege granted recently by Government to *bona fide* agriculturists to take, free of cost, babul trees for their domestic and agricultural purposes, and felled and appropriated to themselves large quantities of this wood while they were clearly not intended to be benefited by the order?

† (*b*) Did traders and speculators, who had no interest in the village, follow the example of these officials and denude the babul jungles of all trees to the great hardship and disadvantage of the village population?

† (*c*) Did the Government, in consequence of the above occurrence, rescind the order, depriving thereby even *bona fide* agriculturists of the privilege of taking these trees free of charge for fuel, etc.?

† (*d*) Is it a fact that, in the tracts of country where these incidents happened, no other wood is available for fuel and other domestic and agricultural purposes?

† (*e*) Is it also a fact that, in consequence of the above occurrences, babul trees hitherto classed under class 3 have been raised to class 2, and a higher seigniorage is levied on the same than before?

† (*f*) Did the Government direct the subordinate authorities to issue definite instructions for regulating the free use of the wood and preventing abuse, and what effect was given by these authorities to such instructions of Government, if any?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is a fact that twelve officials took between them sixteen cart-loads of babul trees under rule 7 of the rules under section 26 of the Forest Act which concedes the right of felling certain trees for agricultural or domestic purpose to all the inhabitants of adjoining villages without distinction. The concession was primarily intended for the agricultural population, but when the rules were passed it was not considered necessary to withhold it from other residents, as it is ordinarily only in sparsely-populated rural tracts that any trees remain over which the privilege can be exercised.

(*b*) The ryots of the villages throughout three or four taluks availed themselves of the concession, as soon as it was made known to them, in a most hasty and improvident fashion, but it is certain that traders and speculators were not concerned in the affair to any great extent, and it is not proved that such persons took part in it at all. It is probable that the villagers may have been encouraged by the example of the officials, but the chief stimulus seems to have arisen from a belief that the concession was one of a temporary nature which would soon be withdrawn.

(*c*) Yes. It was considered that trees, which villagers could not be trusted to protect for themselves, must be paid for.

(*d*) Yes. Practically so—so far as village waste is concerned.

(*e*) When babul was taken on the classified list in consequence of these occurrences, it was placed in class 2, as the lists were under revision, and the trees on the old class 3 were ordinarily left free. In the revised lists recently submitted for the orders of Government, babul has again been placed in class 3.

(*f*) The principle underlying the rules with regard to free felling is that it is only conceded in cases in which detailed regulation by officials is unnecessary. Heads of villages are held responsible for seeing that the privilege is not abused, and in the present case there is no reason to doubt that the heads of the villages concerned did all they could do to keep the felling within bounds. As their influence was found to be insufficient, the privilege was withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

430 [LVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government is aware that fees for serving processes are collected in the Courts of District and Subordinate Judges at double the rates levied in District Munsifs' Courts although the same agency is utilized for serving processes in all classes of courts under the present system of Central and Deputy Nazir?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that process-servers have not ordinarily to travel beyond the limits of the jurisdiction of District Munsifs to serve processes of District Courts or Subordinate Judges' Courts, as all processes are served by the men attached to the Munsifs' Courts in whose jurisdiction the parties or witnesses may be living?

(*c*) Whether there is not a large surplus every year of receipts over expenditure under this head and, if so, will the Government be pleased to give relief to the public by equalizing the rates, or use the surplus in improving the civil judicial establishments, and the buildings, furniture, etc., of civil courts and forming suitable law libraries or improving the same in all the districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The question was not received in time to enable the matter to be considered. I request the Honourable Member to be good enough to repeat the question at the next meeting * of the Council.

* 482 *infra*, p. 173.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

431 [LVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that memorials have been addressed by the Gooty Peoples' Association to the Railway authorities to provide a refreshment-room for Natives at the Guntakal junction for the convenience of Native passengers, and that while the authorities of the Southern Mahratta Railway Company are willing and anxious to meet the comfort and convenience of Native passengers by providing accommodation on the upper floor of the Guntakal station, those of the Madras Railway Company, who are joint owners of the said station, are objecting to this necessary and useful addition to the station in spite of the strong support of the Southern Mahratta Company?

(*b*) In view to the large passenger traffic at this station due to the junction of two railways (the Southern Mahratta and the Madras Railways) and its central position to these railway systems, and to the absence of any town or village or decent Native hotels in the vicinity of the station premises, will the Government be pleased to institute inquiries into the matters set forth in the above paragraph and adopt early measures for the construction and maintenance of a suitable refreshment-room for Natives, as at Nandyal on the Southern Mahratta Railway?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Madras Railway has already provided a Native hostel at Raichur and a choultry at Rénigunta. These have been little used and have been financially a direct loss. At Arkonam a temporary structure has been erected in which facilities are offered to Natives of different castes of obtaining cooked food. Until sufficient time has elapsed to prove the success or otherwise of this last experiment, the Madras Railway do not propose to incur any expenditure at Guntakal on a similar undertaking.

The comfort and convenience of Native passengers has recently been under the consideration of the Government of India, who have invited the attention of Railway administrations to various measures, but the need for refreshment-rooms for Natives is not included among these and this Government does not propose to bring any pressure to bear on the railway in this matter.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

432 [LIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there a Government Order limiting the service of medical subordinates in the hill tracts of Ganjám, Vizagapatam and Gódávari districts to two years and ordering all medical subordinates in those districts to take their turn of duty for hill tract service?

(*b*) Is this owing to the extremely unhealthy climate of those regions and the trying and costly nature of living in those parts?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to issue a similar order for officers of the Revenue, Police and other departments to relieve them regularly and at reasonable intervals from the hardships and privations of life in unhealthy hilly country?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons are the unhealthiness of the climate and the greater cost of living in the hill tracts.

(*c*) The Government does not consider it necessary to issue a similar order for officers of other departments.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

433 [LX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there any objection in law to frame a list of jurors separate from that of assessors instead of one list of jurors and assessors for a district, as at present, for the trial of criminal cases in Mofussil Sessions Courts?

(*b*) If there is no objection, will the Government be pleased to direct in future the preparation of separate lists of jurors as distinguished from those of assessors, and also prescribe adequate property and educational qualifications for service as jurors in view to the proper discharge of the far higher responsibilities devolving on juries in the trial of cases triable by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government cannot undertake to answer legal questions.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

434 [LXI] *Question.*—Adverting to the answer to question No. XLVII * put at the meeting of Council held on 22nd January 1895 by the Hon'ble Mr. N. Subba Rao Pantulu in the matter of the privilege of election to the Masulipatam Municipality, will the Government be pleased to consider the question favourably now and regrant the privilege of electing Councillors and Chairman in that Municipality, in view to meet the wishes of the people signified by memorials of the inhabitants and of the Kistna District Conference?

* 176 *supra*, p. 69.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The matter will be considered.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

435 [LXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proceedings of the District Magistrate of North Arcot, No. 1075-Mag., dated 7th September 1896, published in the "Hindu" newspaper, dated 14th September 1896, transferring calendar case No. 65 of 1896 from the file of the Joint Magistrate of North Arcot to that of another Magistrate? Is this an accurate report of the proceedings?

(*b*) With reference to the strong criticism contained in the said proceedings against the regularity and propriety of the procedure of the Joint Magistrate in the conduct of the said calendar case, and the finding of the District Magistrate as to the correctness of certain explanations furnished by the Joint Magistrate, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and adopt such measures as it may deem necessary under the circumstances at an early date.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to the Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar's question * which relates to the same matter.

* 405 *supra* p. 146.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

436 [LXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leading article of the "Madras Standard" newspaper, dated 16th November 1896 (page 4), stating that the District Magistrate of Tinnevelly has issued a circular to the effect "that all complaints against Police officers should be referred by Subordinate Magistrates to the Police Superintendent"?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the exact nature and wording of the circular, and consider its legality and advisability, and also direct the withdrawal of the same, if it is not in consonance with law and is impolitic?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

19. MEETING OF THE 9TH FEBRUARY 1897.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

437 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the buildings in the occupation of the Resident and Assistant Resident in Travancore and Cochin belong to the States or Rulers of Travancore and Cochin respectively?

(*b*) Whether the British Government or the Resident and Assistant Resident pay rent for the use of such buildings?

(*c*) Whether during the past ten years any money was spent by the British Government towards the repair and upkeep of these buildings?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—(*a*) "Yes."
(*b*) "No."
(*c*) "No."

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

438 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Thornton, I.C.S., while Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate of Salem in August 1896, directed the Tahsildar of Dharmapuri by wire to send up to him one Sampangi, a peon attached to the office of the Deputy Tahsildar and Second-class Magistrate of Pennagaram, without stating the purpose in the telegram, and, on the peon's appearance before him, asked him if he took to his master, the said Deputy Tahsildar, a bribe of Rs. 100 entrusted to him by one Baoodeen Sahib, and on the man's persistent denial he was informed on the spot that he was a prisoner charged with the abetment of the said bribery under section 164, Indian Penal Code, and remanded to jail?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that it was some time before the Magistrate discovered that an offence under section 164, Indian Penal Code, is a bailable one, and that, on this discovery, Mr. Thornton ordered the peon to find two sureties of Rs. 500 each, besides his own recognizance of Rs. 500?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that this peon was then over 40 miles by ordinary road from his native place of Pennagaram; that, being suddenly ordered to appear before Mr. Thornton without being previously informed why, he was unable to find the required security on the spot?

(*d*) What is the length of time during which he was kept in custody for want of security?

(*e*) Whether it is a fact that this man has been subsequently discharged by Mr. Thornton himself for want of evidence?

(*f*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Thornton sent round a notice to be proclaimed by beat of tom-tom in Pennagaram and in several other places within the jurisdiction of the said Deputy Tahsildar and Second-class Magistrate that persons having complaints to make against that officer might come and prefer them to him?

(*g*) Whether it is a fact that he had ordered about 150 village officers to appear before him and questioned them all whether or not they had given bribes and supplies to the said Deputy Tahsildar and Second-class Magistrate?

If the Government has no information on the subject, will it be pleased to direct an inquiry into these matters and place the papers relating to the same on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—The Government is not at present in possession of complete information on the matter but reports have been called for. The Honourable Member is requested to repeat his question at the next meeting * of the Council.

* 513 (2) *infra*, p. 186.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

439 [III] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What are the districts in which the Government has fixed the maximum area for reserved forests in each taluk?

(*b*) In what districts, if any, have the maximum areas been exceeded and what proportions do the excess areas bear to the fixed maximum areas?

(*c*) In what districts areas, proposed for reservation of forests but rejected by the Government as inexpedient, have been re-submitted for such reservation and sanctioned by the Government?

(*d*) Whether before sanctioning proposals to constitute into reserved forests lands in excess of the maximum area fixed by the Government for each taluk and lands, the constitution of which into reserved forests has been previously once disallowed by the Government, the Government will direct publication of the proposals together with the reasons therefor so as to give the villagers concerned an opportunity to state their objections to such proposals?

(*e*) What are the districts in which provision is made for pasturage for goats in reserved forests and reserved lands and on what conditions? Are goats allowed to graze in reserved forests and lands free of fees? Whether there is any order of Government applicable to all the districts in reference to such provision? If not, whether the Government will issue an order directing that sufficient provision be made in reserved forests and reserved lands for pasturage for goats either free of fees or on easy conditions?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government has in the case of some districts laid down limits beyond which it is considered for the present undesirable to extend reservation. It is possible that further reservation may never become expedient in such districts but no absolute maximum has been fixed.

(*c*) The information desired by the Honourable Member could not be furnished without a detailed and laborious examination of the voluminous correspondence which has taken place on the subject of forest reservation, since the passing of Madras Act V of 1882. The Government sees no reason to cause such an examination to be made.

(*d*) The Government considers that the issue of the preliminary notification under section 4 of Madras Act V of 1882, taken together with the publicity of the Forest Settlement officer's proceedings, gives the ryots concerned ample opportunity to prefer objections.

(*e*) The question of regulating goat-browsing has been remitted for the consideration of Collectors.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

440 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. K. Krishnan Nayar, B.A., B.C.E., whose term of office as member of the Calicut Taluk Board expired last year, was asked if he was willing to be re-appointed and had given his consent?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that four or five others who also vacated office in the Taluk Board along with him have been re-appointed?

* (*c*) What are the circumstances under which this gentleman was excluded?

(*d*) What are the districts to the Collectors of which the Governor in Council has delegated his power of appointing members to the Taluk Boards under section 160 of the Madras Local Boards Act V of 1884? Whether such delegation of the powers is being made from time to time to particular Collectors by name, or once for all upon the Collectors of particular districts by their official designation only, and if the latter, whether the opinion of the Advocate-General had been taken as to the legality of such delegation under the provisions of the section?

* Same as 513 (3) *infra*, p. 186.

(*e*) In view to a greater feeling of independence among the members of a Taluk Board, whether the Government will consider the desirability of itself appointing the members instead of authorizing Collectors to do so?

(*f*) Whether the Government would consider the desirability of giving effect to the provisions of section 16, clause (*b*), of the Act and frame and issue rules for the election, by the tax-payers and inhabitants of the taluks, of two-thirds of the whole number of the members of the Taluk Board as fixed by section 18 of the Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the points (*a*) and (*c*).

As to (*b*), the answer is "Yes."

As to (*d*), under section 160 of the Local Boards Act the power of re-appointing members of Taluk Boards originally appointed by the Governer in Council has once for all been delegated to the Presidents of District Boards and not to Collectors as such. There was no necessity to consult the Advocate-General in the matter.

As to (*e*), the power of appointing members of Taluk Boards is retained by Government, while that of re-appointing the members of these Boards, originally appointed by Government, has been delegated to Presidents of District Boards with the view of saving correspondence. The Government sees no necessity for disturbing this arrangement.

As to (*f*), the Government is not at present prepared to take any steps in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

441 [V] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether before making appointments to the office of a Subordinate Judge it has been the practice to request the High Court to nominate or recommend duly qualified persons, and whether it will place on the table the standing orders and rules relating to the appointment of Subordinate Judges by the Government under section 6 of the Madras Civil Courts Act III of 1873?

(*b*) What was the special reason, if any, why the High Court was not previously consulted when Mr. C. G. Kuppuswami Aiyar was appointed as Subordinate Judge at Tanjore last year?

(*c*) Whether the High Court was consulted before the Government filled up the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Gopalan Nayar, what were the names submitted by it, and whether the list included the name of Mr. C. G. Kuppuswami Aiyar?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. C. G. Kuppuswami Aiyar was a third-grade District Munsif when he was appointed a Presidency Magistrate?

(*e*) Whether it is a fact that if he had continued a Munsif instead of being made a Magistrate, he would now be at the bottom of the first grade with over twenty Munsifs senior to him, including several High Court Vakils and graduates?

(*f*) Whether it is a fact that about three years ago the High Court refused to recommend Mr. C. G. Kuppuswami Aiyar for appointment as a Subordinate Judge and stated that he had lost touch with civil work?

(*g*) What are the special reasons for appointing Mr. C. G. Kuppuswami Aiyar as a Subordinate Judge?

(*h*) Whether before confirming Mr. C. G. Kuppuswami Aiyar as a Subordinate Judge is it the intention of the Government to consider the claims of the District Munsifs who were senior to him when he was District Munsif?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of this clause is—It is the ordinary practice now to ask the High Court to mention the names of qualified persons or to ask the High Court to name one or more qualified persons out of several whose names are mentioned.

The answer to the second part is—There are no such standing orders or rules.

(*d*) "Yes"

(*e*) "Yes."

(*b*), (*c*), (*f*) & (*g*) Government considers the matters referred to to be of a confidential nature and therefore declines to answer questions respecting them.

(*h*) The claims of all parties will be duly considered when the question of confirming Mr. C. G. Kuppuswami Aiyar comes up for disposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

* **442** [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state— * Same as 513 (4) *infra*, p. 186.

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that there is an order of the District Magistrate of Salem impressing upon the Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Magistrates of the district that it is part of their duty to wait upon the Superintendent of Police when he goes to their divisions?

(*b*) Whether the statement made in the *Madras Standard* of the 8th May 1896 that the following circular of the District Magistrate of Malabar appeared in the *Malabar District Gazette* of 18th March 1892 is true?—

"The Sub-Magistrates are informed that it is part of their duty to wait on the Superintendent of Police when he arrives at their head-quarters and to give all information and assistance in their power."

(*c*) Whether similar orders of District Magistrates are in force in other districts and whether there are directions issued by the District Magistrates as to the way in which the Subordinate Magistracy ought to address Superintendents of Police as if these latter officers were their (Subordinate Magistrates) official superiors?

(*d*) Whether in view of the feeling that widely prevails that such orders and circulars were intended to bring the Magistracy into subordination to the Police, the Government would direct the withdrawal thereof?

(*e*) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a series of articles on the vagaries of the Mufassal Police that appeared in the *Madras Standard* in its issues of the 30th and 31st December 1896 and 3rd January 1897?

(*f*) Whether it is a fact that the Head Assistant Magistrate of Penukonda has stated, "at present the Police Inspectors are not only allowed with impunity but are encouraged to bring up the gravest possible charges against the Subordinate Magistrates though there is not an atom of truth or probability in them." Whether the Government is aware that there is a growing feeling of alarm and anxiety that what the Head Assistant Magistrate of Penukonda has said is true of the Police throughout the Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*). The Government has no information on the matters mentioned in this part of the question.

(*d*) The Government does not see sufficient reason to adopt the course suggested by the Hon'ble Member.

(*e*) The Government has now perused the criticisms referred to, which are anonymous letters, not newspaper articles.

(*f*) The Government has no information on the point. The answer to the last part of the question is "No."

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

443 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether its attention has been drawn to the complaints against the Coonoor Police published by "an old detective" in the *Nilgiri News* in its issue dated the 26th November 1896?

(*b*) Whether the Government has any information of the action taken by the Police in respect of the two cases of murder and mischief referred to in the newspaper?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Coonoor range has but three small stations; and that heinous offences are rare there? Is there any special reason why the pay of the Police Inspector of Coonoor should be so high as Rs. 350 a month?

(*d*) How long has the Chief Police Inspector of Coonoor, Mr. Shortt, been employed there?

Will the Government be pleased to direct that a statement be furnished showing the landed and house properties purchased by Mr. Shortt or his wife or other near relations at Coonoor, Ootacamund and Kóttagiri since he was appointed at Coonoor; and whether the fact had been reported by him to the Government, "or to the Inspector-General of Police"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the anonymous letter referred to. It is not a newspaper article.

(*b*) The Deputy Inspector-General's report regarding the Coonoor ghát case has already been placed at the disposal of the Press; the Government has no information regarding the other case.

(*c*) The answer to the first part is—Coonoor range comprises four stations, —one first and three second class; grave crime there is light. To the second part the answer is that the officer at Coonoor is a Chief Inspector and not an Inspector; the pay of the office is Rs. 300 with Rs. 25 horse allowance and Rs. 25 house-rent.

(*d*) Since August 1885; the return has been called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

444 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of its letter to the Government of India, No. 47, Financial, dated 19th January 1897, on the subject of the adjustment of Provincial contracts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—It is contrary to precedent to publish correspondence with the Government of India and the Secretary of State upon questions which are still under discussion. The Government therefore regrets that it cannot comply with the Hon'ble Member's request.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

445 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it has made any rules to regulate the transit of timber in Malabar under the provisions of section 35 of the Madras Forest Act V of 1882?

(*b*) Whether all or any of such rules are in force in South Malabar?

(*c*) Whether any stations or timber tannas have been established in South Malabar in view to carry out any such rules?

(*d*) Whether any rules under clause (*k*) of section 35 are in force in South Malabar and, if so, whether they make the registration of property marks for timber compulsory?

(*e*) Whether fees are levied for the registration of property marks and at what rates? What is the amount of such fees realized in South Malabar in 1895–96, or 1896?

(*f*) Whether the Government has taken the opinion of the Advocate-General as to the legality of levying fees for registration of property marks under section 35 of the Forest Act?

(*g*) Whether the object of registering property marks under the Act is to provide against the fraudulent removal of timber, the property of Government and whether the Government will make such registration free?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) to (*e*) The Accountant-General reports that in 1895–96 a sum of Rs. 845 was realized from the levy of fees for the registration of property marks in South Malabar. For the answers to the other questions put, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the notification published at pages 469—471 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 5th August 1884.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 1 (*e*) of G.O., No. 707, Revenue, dated 29th October 1895, which has been laid on the Editor's Table. The revision of the timber transit rules in force in Malabar is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

* **446** [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state— * Same as 513 (5) *infra*, p. 187.

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. E. H. O. Sewell, Inspector of Salt and Abkári Revenue, Ránipéttai Circle, North Arcot district, while on a shooting excursion on the 19th December last, ordered one Abdul Khader, a Salt and Abkári peon under his orders, to swim to a tree in the middle of a tank and pick up for him from its branches a bird he had shot?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that this peon met his death while carrying out this order?

(*c*) What were the full circumstances which brought about his death?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that Adbul Khader was an indifferent swimmer and that he stuck to the tree long and cried for help before he died?

(*e*) Who were the other persons that were with Mr. Sewell? How far is the tank from the nearest village and what was the help which Mr. Sewell rendered or endeavoured to render to Abdul Khader when it was found he was unable to swim back and struggling for life?

(*f*) When and what was the information which Mr. Sewell sent of this occurrence to the Magistrate?

(*g*) Whether any Magistrate held any inquiry touching the death of this man?

(*h*) Whether it is a fact that no *post-mortem* examination was held?

(*i*) Whether this man was also in the enjoyment of a military pension? Whether Mr. Sewell has made any provision for the widow and son of this peon? If not, whether the Government would direct him to make a suitable provision for them?

(*j*) What notice has the Government taken of the conduct of Mr. Sewell in connection herewith?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

447 [XI] *Question.*—If, at any meeting of the Legislative Council, the Government is not in possession of any particular information required by a Member, will the Government be pleased to afford the same at the succeeding meeting?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price:—

Answer.—The practice is that the member should repeat the question if he still desires the information, and the Government does not see any sufficient reason to depart from the practice.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

448 [XII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to supply to the members of the Legislative Council Government reviews and administration reports of the different departments?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price:—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 44, Legislative, dated 31st May 1895, on the subject of the supply of official papers to un-official members of the Legislative Council, a copy of which will be furnished to him.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

449 [XIII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the general appreciation expressed by the local press of the work of the Legislative Councils, and does the Government contemplate holding the meetings oftener in deference to the public wish?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price:—

Answer.—The Government has seen articles in the local press to the effect stated. Meetings of the Council cannot be held more frequently than is required by the exigencies of legislative business.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

450 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state (1) the number of assessees of income-tax in Madras, Bellary and Salem districts, and (2) the number of objection petitions put in, rejected for lapse of time or want of systematic accounts, and disposed of in camps last year?

(*b*) Is there any objection to the Sub-Magistrates and Treasury Deputy Collectors taking up income-tax work in full or in part?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hon'ble Member will be referred to the published report on the administration of the Income-tax Act during the year 1895-96, which contains full particulars as to the total number of assessees in each district, and the number of objection petitions put in by assessees under Part IV of Schedule II to the Act. The Government has no information with which to answer the rest of the Hon'ble Member's question.

(*b*) If by Sub-Magistrates, the Hon'ble Member means *Stationary* Sub-Magistrates, the Government considers that there are objections to the arrangement suggested in the case of both classes of officers.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

451 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Does Government consult the Board of Revenue and Collectors on particular subjects?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to ask them what inducements could be offered to Europeans for taking to agriculture and place their opinion on the table before I could offer any suggestions as desired by Government at the last meeting *?

* 381 *supra*, p. 140.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by the reference suggested.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

452 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Are third-class compartments reserved for Eurasians fully occupied always?

(*b*) Is the number of Muhammadan female passengers less than that of the Eurasians?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—(*a*) Third-class compartments are not reserved for Eurasians on the South Indian Railway, while those on the Madras Railway, so reserved, are not always fully occupied.

(*b*) The Madras and South Indian Railways have no information as their records do not show the sex, nationality, caste or religion of passengers.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

453 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the leader in the *Madras Mail* of the 12th December on Agricultural farms?

(*b*) When was the Saidapet farm started, and why did the experts advise its continuance in face of its unsatisfactory progress?

(*c*) If Government farming does not show any improvement over the ryot's system, would it not be advisable to stop further experiments until a more suitable system could be found?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) Prior to the receipt of the Hon'ble Member's question the attention of Government had not been specifically drawn to the article mentioned.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member will be referred to the published report of the Agricultural Committee appointed by G.O., No. 686, Revenue, dated 25th September 1888, from a perusal of Appendices B and C to which he will see that the Saidapet farm was started in 1865, and was abolished in 1885, because it was considered not to be successful. The question why the experts advised its continuance in face of its unsatisfactory progress is not understood.

(*c*) Granting the Honourable Member's hypothesis, the answer to his question is that "Experiments should not be stopped but should be persisted in in order that a more suitable system may be found."

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

454 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Were exhibitions previously held in this Presidency as in other parts of India, and if so, what was the date of the last exhibition?

(*b*) Have there been any special reasons why such exhibitions were stopped by Government, seeing that they serve useful purposes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes. The last Agricultural Exhibition was held on the 20th and 21st February 1890.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 21 of the published orders of Government—G.O., No 515, Revenue, dated 4th July 1890—on the report of the Agricultural Committee appointed in 1888.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

455 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) In what particular district are Government loans largely availed of by ryots, and how many applications were received last year in that district?

(*b*) What was the average period required for the disposal of each, and what was the longest period required?

(*c*) Is special establishment maintained in each district in connection with loan grants?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The latest particulars available are to be found in the Jamabandi Report for the year ending June 1895, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

(*b*) No information is available.

(*c*) No. Special loan establishments are entertained when the work cannot be got through by the ordinary revenue establishments.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

456 [XX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence between the Madras Government and the Government of India regarding the reduction of provincial contracts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer on the same subject, given to the Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

457 [XXI] *Question.*—As by the adoption of small measures of encouragement, primary education has advanced amongst Muhammadans, will it not be desirable to undertake similar steps to promote higher education amongst them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Considering that public funds last official year bore 64 per cent. of the entire cost of Muhammadan education the Government cannot admit that only "small measures of encouragement" have been adopted. The number of scholarships actually awarded to Muhammadans last year was greatly in excess of the number allotted to them at the beginning of the year as their fair proportion in justice to the claims of other sections of the community. To ensure that their interests shall not be lost sight of a certain number of scholarships in high schools and colleges is set apart for Muhammadans as the Honourable Member will see if he peruses the Government scholarship notification published in the *Fort St George Gazette* of 19th January 1897. Government has also sanctioned the payment to the children of Carnatic Stipendiaries who are very poor of scholarships equal to twice the amount of the school or college fees. Muhammadans are admitted to all grades and classes of institutions under public management at half the standard rates of fees. The Government is at a loss to know what further measures can be adopted to promote the higher education of Muhammadans.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

458 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the protest made at a public meeting by Mr. G. Ganapathi Aiyar, Deputy Collector of Salem, and reported in the *Madras Standard* of the 13th December last, to the effect that the Government ought not to afford any facilities to Muhammadans?

(*b*) Do the rules regulating the conduct of public servants tolerate such political utterances at public gatherings by subordinate officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the passage referred to, and finds that, according to the report, the so-called protest alluded to was not made by M.R.Ry. Ganapathi Aiyar at all, but by another gentleman who is not a Government servant.

(*b*) No such utterances having, so far as appears, been made, this question requires no answer.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

459 [XXIII] *Question.*—What is the number of Brahman officials in the Salem district drawing a salary of Rs. 50 and upwards?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the various establishment lists, which, if he cannot procure them elsewhere, he can inspect in the Government Office.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

460 [XXIV] *Question.*—Did the Government ever draw the attention of the Heads of Departments to watch against the predominance of the above class in public offices, if so, when and under what circumstances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Yes, in G.O., No. 386, Educational, dated 27th July 1887, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

461 [XXV] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the entertainment in some districts of a large number of relatives and caste men of ministerial officers through their influence within the last two or three years, if so, where and what steps are being taken to prevent such irregularities in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—Yes, in Anantapur. The officer concerned was transferred to another district.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

462 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the amount of expenditure of the Ecclesiastical Department?

(*b*) What is the proportion of the population of the Presidency to which this is beneficial?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to the Civil estimates.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the Census Report, from which he may draw his own conclusions.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

463 [XXVII] *Question.*—By whom were the endowments and allowances granted to most of the Muhammadan and Hindu religious institutions?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—This is a matter of history, in regard to which the Honourable Member is referred to the published works on the subject.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

464 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Has the Government resumed or proposes to resume any of the above except for very bad management, if so, what?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government cannot undertake to examine the records for an indefinite time in order to ascertain what was done in the past. For the future the answer is "No".

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

465 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Was the reform of the Madrasa recommended by any Government officers long before the formation of the Board of Muhammadan Education, if so, when and by whom ?

(*b*) Was any allotment originally provided for a new building in the Educational Budget and, if so, why was it allowed by the Director of Public Instruction to lapse ?

(*c*) Was not the head of the Educational Department aware of the unsatisfactory state of the Madrasa both as regards its building and administration before representation by the Board of Muhammadan Education was made, if so, why did he not adopt measures for its reform ?

(*d*) How long was Mr. Bower the Headmaster of the Madrasa, and is the Government aware that in his address at the last anniversary of the school he attributed its inefficiency to the neglect of the Education Department ?

(*e*) Cannot the reform of the Madrasa be proceeded with till a new building is secured for its location ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Madrasa has undergone several changes, it was originally of the high school standard. In January 1873 it was constituted a lower secondary school. It continued to be a lower secondary school until 1885, when, on Mr. Grigg's recommendation, it was raised to the status of a high school as an experimental measure for one year, on the abolition of the high school department of the Presidency College. At the end of this year Dr. Duncan recommended the continuation of the high school classes for a term of years, and this was sanctioned by Government for a term of three years. With reference to the report of the Committee on Muhammadan Educational Endowments the school underwent further modifications in 1890 on Mr. Grigg's recommendation (G.O., Nos. 15, 16, Educational, dated 13th January 1890).

(*b*) No allotment was made in the Educational Budget for a new building; but funds were allotted in the Public Works Budget for six years from 1884–1885. The allotment could not be utilized for want of a suitable site.

(*c*) The Director of Public Instruction has long been aware of the unsuitable character of the present premises; but better accommodation could not be rented and a suitable site could not be found on which a new building could be erected. The Director was not and is not aware of any serious drawback in the administration of the school. The staff has been strengthened from time to time and is quite as well qualified as that of other high schools in this Presidency. The main cause of the comparative failure of the school has been the apathetic character of the students and the absence of efficient control over them out of school hours by their parents or guardians.

(*d*) Mr. Bower was the Headmaster of the Madrasa from May 1890 to June 1896, when he was transferred to the Rajahmundry College. Government is not aware that in his address at the last anniversary of the school Mr. Bower attributed its inefficiency to the neglect of the Educational Department. Had such an address been brought to the notice of the head of this department Mr. Bower would have been called upon to explain and justify his statements.

(*e*) After full consideration Government has come to the conclusion that it is inexpedient to discuss changes in the staff and management of the institution until the site to which the school can best be removed has been decided upon.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

466 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government satisfied that the order issued in 1872 regarding the employment of qualified Muhammadans in the public service duly carried out ? When was the order repeated, and why ?

(*b*) What is the total number of Registrars and Sub-Registrars in the Registration Department ?

(*c*) How many appointments were made during the time of each of the Inspectors-General from the time of the Hon'ble Mr. Rama Iyengar up to date, and how many of these were filled by Muhammadans during the time of each Inspector-General ?

(*d*) How many officers draw Rs. 100 and more per mensem in each of the following departments in the mufassal, viz., Salt, Public Works, Jail, Forest, Judicial, Settlement, Survey and in the several Public offices in the Presidency, and what percentage of these are Muhammadans ?

(*e*) Was any despatch received from the Secretary of State or from the Government of India calling the attention of the Madras Government to the backwardness of the Muhammadan community, if so, when, and what action has been taken over it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is satisfied that the orders of 1872 are being acted upon.

Attention was drawn to these orders in 1880, 1883, 1885, 1887 and 1889.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the Registration Department list.

(*c*) The Government has no information on the point, and regrets that it cannot undertake the very laborious task of collecting it.

(*d*) The Honourable Member is referred to the civil estimates and to the departmental establishment lists which the Honourable Member may refer to at the Government Office.

(*e*) No despatch appears to have been received by this Government from the Secretary of State calling attention to the backwardness of the Muhammadan community. A communication from the Government of India on the subject was received in 1871 and this Government issued orders in 1872 directing the establishment of elementary Muhammadan schools and corresponding classes in other schools at the principal centres of the Muhammadan population, requiring arrangements to be made for the training of Muhammadan teachers. In 1885 a further resolution of the Government of India was received dealing with the memorial presented to the Viceroy by the National Muhammadan Association of Calcutta on the subject of the position and claims of Muhammadans in India. In accordance with a suggestion contained in the resolution a committee was appointed to inquire and report on the management and appropriation of Muhammadan educational endowments; report and final orders were passed upon them by the Government in January 1890. By these orders, the appointment of two additional Sub-Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan schools, the reconstitution of the Madrasa-i-Azam with a Eurasian graduate as headmaster and the payment of grants under certain conditions to teachers of mosque schools were sanctioned.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

467 [XXXI] *Question.*—What is the pay of the Sanskrit Munshi in the Presidency College and that of the Arabic and Persian Munshi of the same institution ?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—The present pay of the Arabic and Persian Munshi of the Presidency College is Rs. 80 and that of the Sanskrit Munshi is Rs. 44.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

468 [XXXII] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article in the *Muhammadan Advocate of India* of November 1896 regarding the appointment of Persian and Hindustani Translator?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the article referred to in the question.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

469 [XXXIII] *Question.*—How many Government Translators are there, and for what languages and to what community do they belong?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the Quarterly Civil List which can be bought at the Lawrence Asylum Press.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

470 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Are European officers examined by the Translators?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—"Yes."

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

471 [XXXV] *Question.*—What is the qualification required for the appointments of Translators?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—No special qualifications are laid down, but no one not thoroughly well acquainted with the language with which he has to deal and with English is appointed a Translator to Government.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

472 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Are appointments such as Sub-Judge on the Nilgiris reserved for persons of any particular community, if so, what are the appointments so reserved and why?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's question is indefinite. If he will on some future occasion specify the particular appointments with regard to which he seeks information, it will be furnished.

The Sub-Judgeship of the Nilgiris is not reserved for persons of any particular community.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

473 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Which district in the Presidency has the largest Muhammadan population, and what is the proportion of Muhammadans to Hindus?

(*b*) What number of appointments carrying a pay of Rs. 100 and upwards is held by each class?

(*c*) How many Muhammadan officers carrying a salary of Rs. 100 and above were appointed in this district within the last 50 years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—In reply to (*a*), the Honourable Member is referred to the Census Report.

In the absence of information as to the district referred to by the Honourable Member it is impossible to answer (*b*) and (*c*).

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

474 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—What opportunities have young Civilians and Probationary Deputy Collectors of learning the details of taluk work before they are placed in independent charge?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The rules relating to the training of Junior Civilians in taluk as well as other work are contained in paragraphs 10 to 15 of the Indian Civil Service Manual, which can be procured from the Government Press.

Until Probationary Deputy Collectors are found qualified for an independent charge they are employed under the Collector's guidance or under that of an experienced covenanted servant. While thus learning their duties they are employed in examining complaints brought forward by petitioners, in taking evidence and preparing decisions in summary suits or in questions about lapsed inams or in charges preferred against subordinate servants. A portion of their time is also employed when necessary in examining and classifying records. They also undergo training in survey and treasury work.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

475 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed on the last memorial submitted by the residents of the nine villages of Sriparankunrum, &c., in the Srivaikuntam taluk, in the Tinnevelly district, regarding the new embankment on the northern side of the Tambraparni?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

476 [XL] *Question.*—Is it true that some time ago the Head Assistant Magistrate at Palghat recommended the dismissal of a Head Constable in connection with a torture case and that he was subsequent to such recommendation promoted to the grade of an Inspector of Police as stated in the issue of the *Madras Standard* of the 19th January 1897?

If so, will the Government be pleased to institute an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject; the attention of the Inspector-General of Police will be drawn to the Honourable Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

477 [XLI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of penal assessment levied and collected in the several taluks of the Tanjore district on the ground of encroachment on poramboke lands and on house-sites?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has not the information to answer this question.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

478 [XLII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that karnams have every year to remain at the taluk head-quarters for the preparation of jamabandi, irrigation and other accounts, that the total period they are thus required to stay there comes generally to several months in the year, and that they are also summoned very often to appear before Tahsildars for inquiries into Revenue petitions ?

If so, will the Government be pleased to order that *batta* be paid to them in consideration of their low pay and the expenses involved in such frequent stays at head-quarter stations ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—It is the case that karnams are frequently detained at the taluk head-quarters for several weeks. In the district of Cuddapah the karnams complained last year that they were so detained for more than six months in the year. If this is true the detention was excessive. A report has been called for on the subject. In Standing Order No. 22 (new edition) the following passages are found : "It is very important in view of the growing amount of clerical work demanded from village officers, that the karnams should be kept away from their villages for as short a time as possible. . . . .

"The system of summoning karnams to the taluk cutcherry and detaining them there for weeks together to write up accounts, which should have been prepared during the year, should be put a stop to."

It is also true that karnams are frequently summoned by Tahsildars with reference to revenue inquiries, and have sometimes to repair on that account to the taluk head-quarters, though now that Stationary Sub-Magistrates have been appointed and Tahsildars visit outlying villages more frequently than they used to do, this is not necessary so frequently as it was. The question whether batta should be given to karnams on these occasions has been considered. It would be objectionable for many reasons, one of which is that it would make it the interest of karnams to stay away from their villages longer than they need. It has been resolved, therefore, not to give batta but to increase the pay of karnams, and proposals with this object are now under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

479 [XLIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of the monthly pay of the karnams in the Máyavaram and Kumbakónam taluks of the Tanjore district and the amount collected from them as fine during the last four months of 1896 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The information asked for is not available in the Government office.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

480 [XLIV] *Question.*—Is the statement in the issue of the *Madras Mail* of the 29th December 1896, that the amount collected as village-cess in the Tanjore district in 1895-96 was $6\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs of rupees, correct ?

If so, will the Government be pleased to state the cause of the sudden increase of this cess from Rs. 1,47,360 in 1894-95 (*vide* page 68 of the Proceedings of the Council of Fort St. George of 1896) to $6\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs of rupees in 1895-96 ?

If not, will the Government be pleased to state the amount actually collected ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The statement in the *Madras Mail* is not correct. The sum collected from the ryots as village-cess was Rs. 3,16,621.

The Village Cess Act was introduced into the Tanjore district from the 1st July 1894. The collection in the last nine months of that year was Rs. 1,47,360. The collections in the first three months of 1895-96 were 1·59 lakhs, and in the last nine months 1·57 lakhs. The increase of Rs. 10,000 in the latter amount is due to increase of land revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

481 [XLV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of night stationmasters employed in the South Indian Railway on a monthly salary of Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 who, in addition to their proper work of receiving and starting trains, etc., are also made to perform the duties of the signallers and booking clerks ?

(*b*) Will it be pleased to order a more liberal scale of pay to these officers and a more adequate establishment to some of the stations on the same line ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—(*a*) The following assistant stationmasters are employed :—
95 on Rs. 17-8-0 per mensem.
11 on Rs. 20 per mensem.

Those in receipt of Rs. 17-8-0 are appointed at minor stations and attend to the signalling of trains and booking of passengers, as it is considered that there is not sufficient work to necessitate the employment of a separate staff. At most of the stations where the 20 rupees men are employed, a separate signaller and booking or assistant clerk is given.

(*b*) The scale of pay was raised from Rs. 15 to Rs. 17-8-0 in August 1896 and compares favourably with the pay given to men in similar positions on other railways It is not contemplated to further increase the pay or establishment at the stations at present, as the present arrangements are considered adequate.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

* **482** [XLVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Government is aware that fees for serving processes are collected in the Courts of District and Subordinate Judges at double the rates levied in District Munsifs' Courts although the same agency is utilized for serving processes in all classes of courts under the present system of Central and Deputy Nazir ?

* Same as 480 *supra*, p. 166.

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that process-servers have not ordinarily to travel beyond the limits of jurisdiction of District Munsifs to serve processes of District Courts or Subordinate Judges' Courts, as all processes are served by the men attached to the Munsifs' Courts in whose jurisdiction the parties or witnesses may be living ?

(*c*) Whether there is not large surplus every year of receipts over expenditure under this head and, if so, will the Government be pleased to give relief to the public by equalizing the rates or use the surplus in improving the civil judicial establishments, and the buildings, furniture, etc., of civil courts and forming suitable law libraries or improving the same in all the districts ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—(*a*) "Yes."

(*b*) "Yes."

(*c*) "There is at present a surplus and the subject of the equalization of the rates is now under consideration by Government.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

483 [XLVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what orders, if any, have been issued in the matter of remission and postponement of kists in the affected districts and place on the table all papers connected with the subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—It rests with the Board of Revenue to deal with the suspension of the collection of kists in the first instance. The matter is receiving the attention of the Board and the postponement of the December kists in the affected districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and Cuddapah has already been allowed in all cases in which the grant of remissions may be considered necessary. The whole of the January kist has also been postponed in the Proddatur, Jammalamadugu, Pulivendla and Cuddapah taluks of Cuddapah. The Collector of Bellary has also been authorized to postpone the dry kists of January and February wherever this may be necessary. As regards wet assessment, Collectors are competent to suspend till jamabandi the collection of any revenue that is likely to be remitted.

The following papers will be placed on the Council table :—

Board's Proceedings,			No. 322,	dated	6th November 1896.
,,	,,	,,	448	,,	18th December 1896.
,,	,,	,,	2	,,	1st January 1897.
,,	,,	,,	472	,,	31st December 1896.
,,	,,	,,	61	,,	25th January 1897.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

484 [XLVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to remit totally dry assessment in the case of all ryots, holding dry land pattas of Rs. 20 and less, whose crops may have wholly failed or who may have got a partial return of less than 8-anna crop, in view to the ryot's need for any small outturn he may have for his own subsistence during the present distress in the affected district ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The rules for the grant of dry remissions will be found at paragraph 4 of the Board's Standing Order No. 23. Government cannot accept any system of dry remissions which would deal with individuals in view of the abuses to which such a system would give rise.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

485 [XLIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that ragi has been taken as the staple food-grain to calculate famine wages in the Cuddapah district ?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that in the affected tracts of the Cuddapah district cholum is the staple food-grain ?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that by reason of the adoption of ragi for calculation of wages, the relief-workers would be paid less than what they would earn if the cholum standard were adopted, owing to the prevailing higher price of the latter ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to order the adoption, in all cases, of the staple food-grain of the place only for the purpose of calculating famine wages ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes, but on a representation from the Collector that cholum is the grain used by relief-workers, the Board has now directed that in accordance with section 121 of the Famine Code the grain in ordinary use by the workers at the time of payment should be taken as the standard for fixing wages.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, cholum being the dearer grain.

(*d*) Government is unable to issue orders in the sense asked for. Relief wages will be determined with reference to the grain in ordinary use by the labourers.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

486 [L] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, up to 31st December 1896, a sum of about Rs. 800 only has been advanced to ryots under the Land Improvement Loans Act XIX of 1883 in the Cuddapah district during the present distress, whereas several lakhs of rupees were advanced during the famine of 1891–92 in the same district ?

(*b*) If the above facts are correct, will the Government be pleased to investigate and state the causes that led to such small sum being taken by the ryots during the current year, and adopt such measures as may be necessary to give effect to the recommendations contained in Rule 126 of the Madras Famine Code.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) From the information at the disposal of Government, it appears that up to the end of December 1896, only Rs. 1,000 in round numbers were advanced in Cuddapah. In 1891–92, about 5·96 lakhs were taken in the whole district in the whole year.

(*b*) The Board is giving its attention to this matter. No special investigation by Government seems to be necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

487 [LI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the extent of damage caused to the crops by the floods of 1896 in the Gódávari and Kistna districts and the measures adopted for the relief of ryots whose crops have been so lost ?

Will Government be pleased to place on the table the reports of the Collectors of Gódávari and Kistna with the orders of the Board of Revenue or Government, if any, in the above matter ?

Will Government be pleased to state whether, in tracts where crops have wholly or partially failed owing to floods or short rainfall, kists are collected with the same rigidity as in normal years ? If not, will Government be pleased to state in what districts or parts of districts Government has suspended the collection of kists ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The damage caused by the floods in Gódávari and Kistna was considerable, and the measures adopted for the relief of the ryots were—

(1) The postponement of kists in the affected villages to February or March and in individual cases of real hardship till June 1897.

(2) Free grant of loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts for the removal of silt accumulations, purchase of seed-grains, cattle, etc.

The question what remissions are necessary will be considered in due course at jamabandi.

The answer to the second part of the question is that the Government is not prepared to place the papers asked for on the Editors' Table.

Most of the third part of the question has been answered in the reply to question XLVII. * In tracts where crops have failed kists are not collected with the same rigidity as in normal years.

* 483 *supra*, p. 173.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

488 [LII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the rules laid down for granting remissions in normal years in cases where crops have partially failed ?

Will Government be pleased to state what special orders have been issued for granting remissions in years like the present?

Will Government be pleased to place on the table the rules issued on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—The rules for the grant of remissions in normal years are laid down in the Board's Standing Order No. 23, New Edition. No special orders have been issued for the grant of remissions in years like the present.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

489 [LIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state in what districts or parts of districts the famine allowance under the Civil Account Code to Government servants drawing a salary of Rs. 15 and less has been granted?

Is it a fact that the Board of Revenue, in spite of the objection of the Collector of the Gódávari district, ruled that ragi and latterly cholum should be treated as the staple article of food for granting the famine allowance under the Civil Account Code in the Gódávari district, though paddy is the standard grain adopted by Mr. Clerk for purposes of settlement and though rice is the staple article of food used by Government servants drawing a pay of Rs. 15 and less?

Will Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made and order that the price of the article of food used by Government servants should determine the grant of the allowance under the Civil Account Code?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—The allowance has not been sanctioned in any district.

It is a fact that the Board of Revenue has recently ruled that ragi, or, if the Collector recommends so, cholum should be taken as the basis for granting compensation for dearness of provisions. The conditions under which this indulgence is to be given have been laid down by the Government of India and the standard which has been adopted by it is the cheapest grain which is commonly used by the people, not the staple grain used by the Government servants in question.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

490 [LIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the proceedings embodying the policy enunciated by Government at the last meeting of the Council in answer to my question No. XLV * regarding the duration of a settlement?

* 418 *supra*, p. 151.

(*b*) Whether in adopting the said policy the attention of the authorities was drawn to the following facts:—

(1) That in connection with the introduction of the Survey and Settlement in this Presidency, the policy laid down by the Court of Directors and the Secretary of State was that the duration of a settlement should be 30 years though the then Government of Madras expressed itself in favour of a term of 50 years.

(2) That in pursuance of the said policy this Government issued notifications from time to time whenever Survey and Settlement was introduced into a district.

(3) That this Government embodied the said policy in unequivocal terms in the Settlement Manual and the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue.

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which led Government to set aside this unambiguous policy accepted for more than a quarter of a century both by the Government and the people and substitute therefor a policy based on "reasonable expectations" guided by "special circumstances" and determinable by the authorities for the time being?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—The Government is not at liberty to lay the papers referred to on the table, and cannot furnish the Honourable Member with any information as to the correspondence which has taken place on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

491 [LV] *Question.*—With reference to the change of policy introduced in July 1895, in consequence of the receipt of the Secretary of State's Despatch of 1885, in connection with the principles governing revisions of assessment—

Whether the Despatch of the Secretary of State was issued with reference to the North-West Provinces and a copy of it was ordered to be sent only to the North-West Provinces and not to Madras?

Whether by the said Despatch the Secretary of State did disapprove of the principles accepted by this Government that revisions of assessment in ryotwari districts should be made entirely with reference to prices and that no re-classification of soils or re-valuation of grain values should be attempted?

Whether the Secretary of State by the said Despatch did direct or suggest to this Government to cancel its previous declarations and pledges?

Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said Despatch of the Secretary of State and, if not, will Government be pleased to state its reasons for declining to place the same on the table?

In case Government is not prepared to lay the Despatch on the table, will Government be pleased to give such portions of the said Despatch as direct this Government to set aside its policy governing revisions of assessment or cancel its previous declarations and pledges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—As the Honourable Member was informed in answer to a question * put at the meeting of the 18th December 1895, the Government is not prepared to lay on the table the Despatch to which he refers. The Government regrets that it cannot give the Honourable Member any further information on the subject.

* 269 *supra*, p. 106.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

†**492** [LVI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer ‡ given at the meeting of the Council held in February 1896 by the Hon'ble Colonel McNeil Campbell that "the rules for the distribution of water in the Gódávari delta were circulated for adoption" in January 1895, will Government be pleased to state whether the rules have been brought into force? If not, what is the cause of the delay?

† Same as 417 *supra*, p. 150.
‡ 391 *supra*, p. 114.

Will Government be pleased to state whether the rules will be brought into force before the commencement of the next fasli?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—The water distribution rules published in the "Gódávari District Gazette" of 7th January 1897 are already in force in the Gódávari delta as far as practicable.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

493 [LVII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the rules, if any, framed for the distribution of water to the Sangam and Nellore deltas?

Is it one of the rules in force since the construction of the Sangam anicut in 1884 that 1,200 cubic feet of water per second should be let down the Sangam anicut through the under sluices, for the irrigation of the Nellore delta before any is taken for the Sangam delta?

Is it a fact that in December last Mr. R. N. H. Reid, the then Executive Engineer of the Nellore district, ordered, in spite of the protest of the Sub-divisional Officer, Nellore delta, that the under-sluices of the Sangam anicut should be closed, thereby preventing the supply of water and causing loss to nearly 20,000 acres under the Sarvapalli reservoir and specially 40,000 acres receiving direct supply from the Pennéru and thus diverting nearly all the water in the river to the Kanigiri reservoir?

Will Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made into the above matter and issue orders that the usual flow of water down the Sangam anicut should not be interfered with?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—There is no rule regarding the amount of water to be passed through the under-sluices of the Sangam anicut.

No information is available in the Government office regarding the allegation that the Executive Engineer of the Nellore division, in spite of the protest of his Sub-divisional Officer, curtailed the supply of water to irrigation under the Nellore anicut resulting in a failure of crop on 60,000 acres. Inquiries will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

494 [LVIII] *Question*.—Is it a fact that though there was a full supply of water in the Kanigiri reservoir in fasli 1305, no water was let down by Mr. Salisbury, Sub-divisional Officer in charge of the Sangam delta, to Utkur and other villages, with the result that the crops raised by ryots in the said villages failed for want of water?

Is it a fact that, in consequence, ryots of the said villages applied for remission of the land-tax and water-rate and that at the jamabandi held in or about March 1896 the Jamabandi officer refused remission on the ground that there was adequate supply in the reservoir?

Will Government be pleased to order an enquiry into the above matter?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

Answer.—No information is available in the Government office on the subject of this question. Inquiries will be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

495 [LIX] *Question*.—Is it a fact that the Tahsildar of the Nuzvid division under instructions from the Collector of Kistna district notified to the ryots of the Nuzvid division that in case they withdrew their relinquishment applications and used Government water for raising wet crops in fasli 1305, they would not be liable to any penal water-rate; and is it also a fact that some of the ryots who withdrew their relinquishment applications and used Government water on the faith of the said assurance were charged with double water-rate and their petitions to the Collector were rejected?

Will Government be pleased to cause enquiries to be made into the above matter and order a refund of the excess water-rate so levied?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject and is not prepared to institute enquiries into this matter upon which the Board of Revenue is competent to adjudicate on appeal.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

496 [LX] *Question*.—Is it a fact that orders have been issued during the current fasli that the enhanced water-rate of 5 rupees should be collected on all lands indiscriminately, though in the previous fasli exemption from the enhanced rate was

granted with respect to certain lands "suffering from poverty of soil, insufficient irrigation, defective drainage or a combination of these defects" and consequently unable to bear the enhanced water-rate?

Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which such orders have been issued and place on the table the papers relating thereto?

Will Government be pleased to state whether it sees any objection to issuing instructions that the 5-rupee water-rate should not be collected on lands exempted during the previous fasli, as also on lands affected by floods during the current fasli.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—The exemption sanctioned by Government was intended to remain in force pending the resettlement of the delta tracts subject to any modifications which experience might show to be necessary. No proposals for the general discontinuance of the concession have been received and so far as the Government is aware neither the Board of Revenue nor the district officers have issued orders directing the indiscriminate collection of the enhanced water-rate.

The Government sees no reason to reduce the water-rate on lands affected by the floods in the way proposed. The Collector has been authorized to postpone the collection of the revenue for such time as may be necessary in each case, and this the Government considers to be sufficient.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU:—

497 [LXI] *Question*.—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the Nellore district under a system known as Sekhada 150 per cent. of the occupied area in a village was set apart for free grazing to the villagers?

(*b*) Is it a fact that this system was abolished and the land left for free grazing is now reserved by the Forest department?

(*c*) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the rights enjoyed by ryots have been allowed to be interfered with by the Forest department?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the Proceedings of Government and the Secretary of State, if any, relating to the Sekhada system prevailing in the Nellore district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is "Yes".

(*b*) The system referred to has been abolished and some of the Sekhada lands have been constituted forest reserves.

(*c*) The *privileges* granted to the ryots in 1875—not *rights*—were allowed to be interfered with by the Forest department, because they are inconsistent with the forest policy of Government and the real interests of the people. The rights claimed by the ryots affected by the reservation of any particular block must have formed the subject of judicial investigation at the hands of the Forest Settlement officer appointed under section 4 of Madras Act V of 1882, against whose decision the law provides a regular appeal.

(*d*) The Government is not prepared to lay on the table the papers relating to the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—

498 [LXII] *Question*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received any representations from the districts of South Arcot, North Arcot and Chingleput urging the necessity of postponing the collection of kists, owing to the lateness of the rains and the consequent absence of all cultivation last year; and if so, what orders have the Government passed on them? If no orders have been yet passed, will the Government be pleased to state what orders they intend maknig on the matter?

Has the Government received any memorial or telegram on the subject from the inhabitants of Kauveripak, and if so, how was it disposed of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Certain petitions on the subject have been received and transferred to the Board of Revenue for disposal. Two telegrams have been received from the inhabitants of Kauveripak and transferred to the Board of Revenue, and a petition received from them is still under disposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

499 [LXIII] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter published in the *Madras Times* on Saturday, the 23rd January 1897, under the heading of "The ways of Collectors" and under the signature of "R.R.R."?

If its attention has not been drawn to it, will it cause enquiry to be made into the matter, and place the result of the enquiry on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The answer to both parts of the question is "No".

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

500 [LXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a return of all the Engineers now employed under Local Fund Boards, stating their present age, their pay and their qualifications and nationalities, stating also how many of them are the retired servants of Government and in what years did they retire?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The names of the Local Fund Engineers and their pay will be found at page 228 of the last Quarterly Civil List. No further information is available in the Government office.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

501 [LXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have been any loss or gain from the European refreshment-rooms provided in the Madras and South Indian Railways? Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement of receipts and expenditure in connection with the refreshment-rooms for Europeans at Arkonam, Guntakal, Salem, Jalarpet and Méttupálaiyam? Will the Government be pleased to state what amount is charged as "house-rent" for refreshment-rooms at the above places?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—On the Madras Railway some refreshment-rooms are worked at a loss and others at a profit. The following statement shows the result of working the refreshment-rooms at the stations named except Guntakal which is under the Southern Mahratta Railway and not under the control of this Government :—

		31st December 1896.			30th June 1896.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Arkónam	Profit.	1,538	0	6	2,125	12	10
Salem	„	527	1	9	646	6	3
Jalarpet	„	135	13	9	78	2	8
Méttupálaiyam	„	604	13	4	509	1	4

The Madras Railway is its own refreshment-room contractor and no rent is therefore charged for the rooms.

The refreshment-rooms at South Indian Railway stations are worked by private contractors and not by the Company who is in no way concerned beyond looking to the contractors to give general satisfaction and fixing the tariff charges. The Company allows the contractors the use of the rooms free of charge.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

502 [LXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to train a staff of efficient, commercial and industrial instructors in this Presidency; whether any scholarship has been offered to undergraduates and graduates to induce them to qualify themselves for teaching such subjects? Is there any special allotment in the Educational Budget of this year for this purpose?

In the year 1895, the Government was pleased to state that, in view of the success of the School of Commerce at Calicut, it was under consideration to open branches at Tellicherry and other centres. What steps have been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—There are no special schools in this Presidency to train teachers of commercial subjects. With regard to the industries connected with wood-work and metal-work proposals are under consideration, according to which four young men will annually be admitted into the workshop of the College of Engineering to go through a three years' course with a view to their being trained to be teachers of these industries in schools throughout the Presidency. The Government scholarship notification and the Grant-in-Aid Code provide for scholarships to candidates passing the elementary technical examination in commercial and industrial subjects to enable them to continue their studies for the Intermediate and Advanced examinations in those subjects. Such of them as intend to become teachers are required to satisfy the Board of Examiners for Teachers' Certificates of their ability to teach the subjects they profess. On passing this test they receive Technical Teachers' certificates and become eligible for employment as commercial or industrial teachers.

Special classes to teach certain commercial subjects have been opened in the Brennen College, Tellicherry. Government sees no present necessity to maintain a number of commercial schools under its direct management.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

503 [LXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place a statement of the amounts spent by the various District Boards for educational purposes during the last three years in this Presidency? Has there been any reduction in the amounts spent for educational purposes and has there been any correspondence regarding the same between the Government and the Director of Public Instruction?

Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not desirable to fix a percentage of Local Fund receipts to be spent for educational purposes with a view to save all correspondence in the matter? Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to impart primary education to the children of the hill tribes in Northern Circars, and if any steps have been taken, what is the amount they intend allotting for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—As regards the first part of this question, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the General Local Fund Reviews for the last three years, which contain the required information. As regards the second part of the question, there has been no reduction in the total amount spent for educational purposes. The Government does not consider it desirable to lay down any fixed percentage of Local Fund receipts to be spent on education. Over 150 Government schools are at work in the agency

tracts of the Northern Circars and these are specially intended for the hill tribes, though the tribes have not yet availed themselves of them to the extent that was contemplated or is desirable. The current year's budget has provided about Rs. 32,000 towards their upkeep.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

504 [LXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what amounts were collected as printing charges in the High Court of Madras from the litigants for the years 1894-95, 1895-96 and 1896-97; what amount was actually spent for printing and were there any savings in those years? Will the Government also state whether the old scale of charges from parties is continued or a reduction or increase is made in it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Civil Estimates for the answer to the first part of the question. The Government has no information on the other subjects referred to in the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

505 [LXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they received sanction to the scheme for the re-organization of the Educational Department in this Presidency; and, if so, when is it likely to come into force? Will the Government place on the table all correspondence relating to the subject?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—Sanction was received and the scheme introduced with effect from 1st January 1897. The resolution of the Government of India on the subject was republished from the *Gazette of India* in part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 4th August 1896 to which the Hon'ble Member is referred.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

506 [LXX] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraphs in *The Hindu* of the 27th and 28th January relating to the practice of Inspectors of Schools making text books for the lower standards and to the tendency to the use of undue influence to get them adopted? Will the Government be pleased to call for and lay on the table a return showing the names and number of the text books compiled by Inspectors, and in use in all or some of the institutions in their respective circles and also the names of those institutions and the date when these books were introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Government has perused the paragraphs in *The Hindu*. Mr. Marsden's connection with the preparation and publishing of text books viewed in relation to his position on the Text-book Committee and as Inspector of Schools was under the consideration of the Director several months ago and is still engaging his attention. The use of undue influence on the part of any inspecting officer to get the books in which he is interested introduced into a school would be a breach of the regulations of the department; and if brought to the notice of the Director, the officer doing so would be severely dealt with. Government is not prepared to call for and lay on the table the return requested by the Hon'ble Member. A consolidated list of all approved text books will shortly be published by the Director of Public Instruction and from this list the Hon'ble Member will be able to ascertain what books have been prepared by inspecting officers. Managers of schools have according to the rules absolute freedom to select from this list the books they wish to use. If any attempt is made by an inspecting officer to interfere with the freedom of a manager in this respect, the manager has his remedy in an appeal to the head of the department.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

507 [LXXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to the position of inspecting schoolmasters? Have any steps been taken, or are they in contemplation to better their pay and prospects?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Yes. The Government is not at present prepared to take any steps in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

508 [LXXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to a paragraph in *The Hindu*, dated 1st February 1897, complaining against the conduct of the District Magistrate of Kurnool in forcing the toddy lease-holders to open toddy-shops? If its attention has not been drawn to it, will the Government be pleased to take notice of it and cause enquiries to be made into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government does not see sufficient grounds for enquiring as to the Collector's order. Any one who is aggrieved can complain to the Board of Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

509 [LXXIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to inquire and report whether it is a fact that the High Court establishment on the Appellate Side had only one day's holiday during the Christmas vacation and that since the appointment of Mr. C. G. Todhunter as Deputy Registrar the payment of the salaries of the subordinate officials, peons and other servants is being made only after the 10th of every month?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no information. The Government has no authority to interfere with the details of the working of the establishment of the High Court and declines therefore to comply with the Hon'ble Member's request.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

510 [LXXIV] *Question.*—With reference to my question * at the last meeting of the Council whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article in *The Hindu* of the 18th November 1896 regarding the assignment of darkhast lands to a Missionary in the village of Manur in the taluk of Conjeeveram, the Government was pleased to state "No"? Has the Government made inquiry into the matter subsequently and is the Government now in a position to state whether the lands referred to were assigned to a stranger or not?

* 427 *supra*, p. 163.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government did not think it necessary to make any inquiry subsequently.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

511 [LXXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state why no action was taken by the District Magistrate of Malabar against Unni Tampuran, a defence witness in the Calicut torture case who gave evidence before the Committing Magistrate, but who was found by Mr. H. H. O'Farrell, the Sessions Judge, to have evaded summons in order to avoid appearing in the Sessions Court (*vide* the judgment dated 28th November 1895)? Will the Government kindly order the District Magistrate to carry out the Sessions Judge's order in accordance with the law?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the point.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

512 [LXXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased, in view to the present disturbed condition of the Ernad and Wallavanad taluks in the Malabar district, to appoint a Special Officer well acquainted with the country and possessing local influence to deal with the grave crimes in those taluks either independently or in co-operation with the local officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government considers that the officers now employed in Malabar are well acquainted with the country and possess local influence and has no intention of making any changes there at present?

20. MEETING OF THE 9TH APRIL 1897.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

513 [I] *Question.*—In reference to the following questions asked by me at the last two Meetings of the Council, which the Government was not then in a position to answer, has it since obtained the necessary information and, if so, will it be pleased to answer them and lay the papers of the several inquiries on the table :— * 405 *supra*, p. 146.

(1) *Question* No. XXXII * on the agenda paper for the Meeting of the Council on the 9th December 1896—

["XXXII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been called to the conduct of Mr. Vaughan, Joint Magistrate of North Arcot, during the trial of the calendar case, No. 65 of 1896, on his file?

Whether it is a fact that Mr. Vaughan limited by time the right of the accused to cross-examine the witnesses called on behalf of the prosecution?

Whether it is a fact that he refused to record material parts of the proceeding before him, and that in the case of one important witness, the Rev. Mr. Chamberlain, he made no record at all of his cross-examination beyond a few symbols such as—Ö Ö—which he, Mr. Vaughan, interpreted to the District Magistrate to mean that nothing material was elicited in cross-examination?

Whether Mr. Vaughan's account of what had taken place before him in the course of the trial was found by the District Magistrate on investigation to be inaccurate?

Whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate has recorded his opinion that the action of Mr. Vaughan in court and his action in giving him (District Magistrate) an inaccurate version are 'serious matters'?"] † 438 *supra*, p. 158.

(2) Question No. II † on the agenda paper for the Meeting of the Council on the 9th February 1897—

["II. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Thornton, I.C.S., while Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate of Salem in August 1896, directed the Tahsildar of Dharmapuri by wire to send up to him one Sampangi, a peon attached to the office of the Deputy Tahsildar and Second-class Magistrate of Pennagaram, without stating the purpose in the telegram, and, on the peon's appearance before him, asked him if he took to his master, the said Deputy Tahsildar, a bribe of Rs. 100 entrusted to him by one Baoodeen Sahib, and on the man's persistent denial he was informed on the spot that he was a prisoner charged with the abetment of the said bribery under section 164, Indian Penal Code, and remanded to jail?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that it was some time before the Magistrate discovered that an offence under section 164, Indian Penal Code, is a bailable one, and that, on this discovery, Mr. Thornton ordered the peon to find two sureties of Rs. 500 each, besides his own recognizance of Rs. 500?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that this peon was then over 40 miles by ordinary road from his native place of Pennagaram; that, being suddenly ordered to appear before Mr. Thornton without being previously informed why, he was unable to find the required security on the spot?

(*d*) What is the length of time during which he was kept in custody for want of security?

(*e*) Whether it is a fact that this man has been subsequently discharged by Mr. Thornton himself for want of evidence?

(*f*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Thornton sent round a notice to be proclaimed by beat of tom-tom in Pennagaram and in several other places within the jurisdiction of the said Deputy Tahsildar and Second-class Magistrate that persons having complaints to make against that officer might come and prefer them to him?

(*g*) Whether it is a fact that he had ordered about 150 village officers to appear before him and questioned them all whether or not they had given bribes and supplies to the said Deputy Tahsildar and Second-class Magistrate?

If the Government has no information on the subject, will it be pleased to direct an inquiry into these matters and place the papers relating to the same on the table?"]

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(1) & (2) The only answer the Government can give to these questions is that it has made full inquiry into the matters referred to and has passed such orders as seemed necessary.

* 440 *supra*, p. 159.

(3) Clause (*c*) of question No. IV * on the agenda paper for the Meeting of the Council on the 9th February 1897—

["IV. †(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. K. Krishnan Nayar, B.A., B.C.E., whose term of office as member of the Calicut Taluk Board expired last year, was asked if he was willing to be re-appointed and had given his consent?"

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that four or five others who also vacated office in the taluk board along with him have been re-appointed?

(*c*) What are the circumstances under which this gentleman was excluded?"]

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

‡ *ibid.*

Answer.—(3) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to the same question ‡ at the Meeting of the Council on the 9th February 1897. The Government does not consider it necessary to call for the information.

§ 442 *supra*, p. 161.

(4) Question No. VI § on the agenda paper for the Meeting of the Council on the 9th February 1897—

["VI. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that there is an order of the District Magistrate of Salem impressing upon the Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Magistrates of the district that it is part of their duty to wait upon the Superintendent of Police when he goes to their divisions?

(*b*) Whether the statement made in the *Madras Standard* of the 8th May 1896 that the following circular of the District Magistrate of Malabar appeared in the *Malabar District Gazette* of 18th March 1892 is true?

'The Sub-Magistrates are informed that it is part of their duty to wait on the Superintendent of Police when he arrives at their head-quarters and to give all information and assistance in their power.'

(*c*) Whether similar orders of District Magistrates are in force in other districts and whether there are directions issued by the District Magistrates as to the way in which the Subordinate Magistracy ought to address Superintendents of Police as if these latter officers were their (Subordinate Magistrates) official superiors?

† *Note.*—Clauses (*a*) and (*b*), also have been printed to render clause (*c*) intelligible.

(*d*) Whether in view of the feeling that widely prevails that such orders and circulars were intended to bring the Magistracy into subordination to the Police, the Government would direct the withdrawal thereof?

(*e*) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a series of articles on the vagaries of the Mufassal Police that appeared in the *Madras Standard* in its issues of the 30th and 31st December 1896 and 3rd January 1897?

(*f*) Whether it is a fact that the Head Assistant Magistrate of Penukonda has stated, 'at present the Police Inspectors are not only allowed with impunity but are encouraged to bring up the gravest possible charges against the Subordinate Magistrates though there is not an atom of truth or probability in them.' Whether the Government is aware that there is a growing feeling of alarm and anxiety that what the Head Assistant Magistrate of Penukonda has said is true of the Police throughout the Presidency?"]

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(4) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to his question No. VI * at the Meeting of the Council on the 9th February last to which the Government has nothing to add.

* 442 *supra*, p. 161.

† 446 *supra*, p. 163.

(5) Question No. X † on the agenda paper for the Meeting of the Council on the 9th February 1897—

["X. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Mr. E. H. O. Sewell, Inspector of Salt and Abkári Revenue, Ránipettai Circle, North Arcot district, while on a shooting excursion on the 19th December last, ordered one Abdul Khader, a Salt and Abkári peon under his orders, to swim to a tree in the middle of a tank and pick up for him from its branches a bird he had shot?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that this peon met his death while carrying out this order?

(*c*) What were the full circumstances which brought about his death?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that Abdul Khader was an indifferent swimmer and that he stuck to the tree long and cried for help before he died?

(*e*) Who were the other persons that were with Mr. Sewell? How far is the tank from the nearest village and what was the help which Mr. Sewell rendered or endeavoured to render to Abdul Khader when it was found he was unable to swim back and struggling for life?

(*f*) When and what was the information which Mr. Sewell sent of this occurrence to the Magistrate?

(*g*) Whether any Magistrate held any inquiry touching the death of this man?

(*h*) Whether it is a fact that no post mortem examination was held?

(*i*) Whether this man was also in the enjoyment of a military pension? Whether Mr. Sewell has made any provision for the widow and son of this peon? If not, whether the Government would direct him to make a suitable provision for them?

(*j*) What notice has the Government taken of the conduct of Mr. Sewell in connection herewith?"]

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(5) The Government has no knowledge of the matter and considers that it is unnecessary to call for any information regarding it. It appears to have been an unfortunate accident and any enquiry as to the

circumstances should be undertaken in the ordinary course of law. There is nothing before Government to show the need for any special action on its part.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

514 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table papers showing the conditions on which the South Indian Railway Company manages the railway for the Government ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer. The contract, dated 24th November 1890, between the Secretary of State and the South Indian Railway is published as Appendix O to Part II of the Director-General of Railways' Administration Report of 1890–1891, page 142, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

515 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) In the light of the facts obtained in the trial of the recent Negapatam riots case and of the observations made by Mr. Hamnett, I.C.S., in his judgment, is the Government in a position to say what were the causes of the riots and what steps does it propose to take to remedy the grievances complained of by the railway workmen and employés at Negapatam ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether, under the circumstances of the case, it is necessary at this late day to continue further prosecutions for participation in the said riots ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred for the causes of the riots to the Magistrate's judgment. The reply to the final part of the question is "No".

(*b*) This must be left to the discretion of the local Magistrate.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

516 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) What was the amount of the South Indian Railway Fine Fund when the railway became the property of Government and what is its present amount ?

(*b*) Is this fund Government property ? If so, by whom has it been administered since it became its property and for what purposes ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that nearly the whole of this fund has been made up by fines imposed upon the Indian subordinates of the Railway Company ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that, out of this fund, recreation-rooms, at a cost of over Rs. 75,000, are being constructed for the benefit of the officers of the company, to the exclusion of its Indian officers ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that out of this fund a large sum is proposed to be spent in securing a good bungalow at Ootacamund or Coonoor for the benefit of the European employés of the company ? If so, what is the sum proposed to be so spent ? Will it please lay on the table papers connected with the proposal ? In view of the distress in this Presidency and the present financial condition of the Government, will it be pleased to cancel the proposal ?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the undesirability of allowing the European officers of this railway, who impose and collect the fines from their Indian subordinates, to utilize the fund for their exclusive benefit and of entrusting the entire management of this fund to Government officers and for purposes connected with the general administration of the railway without regard to race distinctions ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—(*a*) Then Rs. 1,42,178, now Rs. 79,714.

(*b*) The fund is Government property. It is administered by the South Indian Railway Company subject to the control of Government whose sanction must be specially sought and obtained when proposals are made involving large expenditure or involving principles.

(*c*) The majority of the Railway subordinates being natives of India it follows that most of the fund has been realised from them.

(*d*) Recreation rooms to about the value of the sum stated are being provided with the special sanction of Government, but they are for the benefit of all races alike. Membership for the purpose of the future upkeep of the rooms will be compulsory in the case of Europeans but optional with natives of India.

(*e*) It is proposed to provide a sanitarium at Coonoor for European and Eurasian subordinates at a cost of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 15,000 and also a reading-room for natives of India at Trichinopoly. But these proposals are not yet before Government.

(*f*) The Hon'ble Member has been misinformed. The fine fund is not used for the benefit of the European officers of the Railway, but for those of the subordinates—European, Eurasian or Indian.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

517 [V] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that the third-class reserved compartments for women in the South Indian Railway are narrower than the other third-class compartments of the same railway, and that, owing to this fact and to the nature and position of the closets therein, such compartments are uncomfortable and insanitary ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—The nature of the accommodation referred to is as good as is at present practicable. On the South Indian as well as on all other Indian Railways the comfort and convenience of native passengers and especially of native female passengers continues to receive the attention of the Government and such accommodation is given as the available rolling-stock and the conditions generally admit of.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

518 [VI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that there are no Indians employed in this railway who have received a University education ?

Will the Government be pleased to take the question of reorganizing the whole system of management of this railway so as to invite to its service men who have received higher education in this country and so as to reduce the cost of the management ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—It is not a fact. Government has no intention of reorganizing the South Indian Railway service upon the lines suggested by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

519 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has a proposal been submitted to the Government to absorb the Taluk Board of Sivaganga into the Taluk Board of Ramnad in the Madura district, and if so, what are the grounds on which the Government is invited to sanction the proposal ?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that the feeling throughout the Sivaganga zamindari is against this amalgamation and that large public meetings are being held in several places of the zamindari protesting against the proposal ?

(*e*) Has the Government received memorials praying that this proposal be not sanctioned ?

(*d*) In view to this feeling and to the large areas of the Taluk Boards of Sivaganga and Ramnad, will the Government be pleased to disallow the proposal ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) A proposal to amalgamate the Sivaganga and Ramnad Local Fund taluks has been received by Government. It is based on the ground that the two taluks are under one Revenue Divisional officer, who is the President of both the Taluk Boards and has his head-quarters at Ramnad, that the amalgamation will facilitate the disposal of business, and that the office establishment, which is now inadequate and insufficient, can be strengthened, improved and better controlled.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government has received a memorial and a telegram in favour of the amalgamation and several telegrams against it, with an intimation in many cases that memorials will follow.

(*d*) The subject will be duly considered by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

* 440 *supra*, p. 160.

520 [VIII] *Question.*—In reference to the answer to my question No. IV, * clause (*f*) asked at the last meeting of the Council, whether the Government would consider the desirability of appointing two-thirds of the members of the Taluk Boards by election under the provisions of the Madras Act V of 1884, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Under what circumstances the said provisions were introduced in the Act by this Government ?

(*b*) What are the grounds on which the Government hesitates to give effect to these provisions ?

(*c*) Whether it will carry out the objects of these provisions by making rules for election thereunder and introducing them tentatively at least in such Taluk Boards as the Government might be pleased to select ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) They were introduced to meet the case of taluks which should be considered sufficiently advanced to exercise the privilege.

(*b*) The Government does not consider that the inhabitants of rural tracts are yet sufficiently advanced to appreciate and avail themselves of the elective franchise.

(*c*) In view of the answer given to (*b*) this question requires no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

521 & 522 *Questions.* **521** [IX].—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the Madras Government had recently submitted to the Government of India a scheme for the reorganization of the Revenue Survey Department ?

(*b*) Whether the Government of India sent the scheme back to the Madras Government in view to its submitting a revised scheme ?

(*c*) What was the scheme submitted by this Government ? Is it a fact that the Government proposed to place each district in charge of a graded European officer ?

(*d*) Whether the Government of India in sending it back suggested that the object of the Government might be attained by increasing the staff of Deputy Collectors and placing one Survey Deputy Collector in charge of each district ? And on what grounds did the Government of India base its recommendation ?

(*e*) Has the Government accepted the recommendation of the Government of India ? If not, what were the grounds for refusing to accept it ?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence relating to the subject ?

522 [X] Has the Government submitted a revised scheme for such re-organisation, and, if the matter has been disposed of, will it place the papers on the table ?

Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the necessity for any reorganization of the Madras Revenue Survey Department ?

(*b*) whether the reorganization would increase the cost of the administration of the department, and, if so, by how much a year ?

(*c*) what would be the difference in the cost between the schemes recommended by the Government of India and proposed by this Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

521 } **522** } *Answer.*—The reorganization of the Survey Department has formed the subject of recent correspondence with the Government of India and is still under consideration. The Government is not prepared at this stage to lay the papers on the table and regrets that, for the present, it cannot furnish the Hon'ble Member with any further information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

523 [XI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that areas closed to grazing in reserved forest lands by the side of railways are excessive in comparison with such closed areas in other reserved forest lands, and are very inadequate to meet the requirements of the ryots ? If so, what are the special reasons for adopting this policy near a railway ?

Will the Government be pleased to call for a statement showing in each district the total extent of the reserved forest lands on either side of the Madras Railway, the extent in such lands closed to grazing, and the number of cattle, sheep and goats at the end of the last official year, of the villages depending for grazing purposes on such reserved forest lands ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—No policy has been adopted by Government which involves the prohibition of grazing in an excessive proportion of the forest reserves near railways, and if the position is as stated in the question, it is no doubt due chiefly to the operation of the ordinary rule that blocks which have just been felled over should be closed to grazing for a few years.

It would obviously be against public interests to throw open such blocks to grazing before the re-growth was old enough to hold its own against cattle, and the Government sees no reason to call for a statement in the form suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

524 [XII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Government order of 1890, directing, in the case of agricultural cattle, the levy of grazing fees at half the rates sanctioned for cattle of other kind, has been recently modified and that a uniform rate, amounting to three-fourths of the full rate originally sanctioned, has been substituted ? If so, under what circumstances ? Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of restoring the old order relating to agricultural cattle ?

Is it a fact that, notwithstanding this recent order of Government, grazing fees are still charged in some districts at the old full rates for all cattle and not at three-fourths, and, if so, in what districts and under what circumstances ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—It is a fact that in 1895 the Government resolved to adopt uniform rates of grazing fees in modification of the orders issued in 1890 directing the levy of differential rates which had been given effect to in a few

districts only. The rates adopted are ordinarily three-fourths of the maxima prescribed in 1890, which it may be mentioned were practically identical with the fees which in another province the Government of India described as "almost nominal."

The decision of Government was arrived at after prolonged consideration and reference to all Collectors, and the reasons for it will be found in G.O., No. 553, dated 14th August 1895, which was laid on the Editors' table. Having regard to the results of past experience, the Government is not prepared to revive the distinction which it was previously attempted to draw between privileged and unprivileged cattle. When the order prescribing uniform rates was passed, it was stated that the new scale need not be introduced into districts such as Kistna and Cuddapah, where the maximum fee was already being charged and collected without difficulty. The Board reports that full rates had also been charged in Trichinopoly and Tanjore, and that with respect to foreign cattle only full rates are now charged in South Arcot and double rates in the Nilgiris. The rate in Cuddapah was reduced to the three-fourth rate last year on the recommendation of the Conservator supported by the Collector and the Board of Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

525 [XIII] *Question.*—In regard to the concession, allowed to the ryots, of cutting wood for agricultural implements free of charge from the "unclassified" trees in unreserved forest lands, will the Government be pleased to abolish the distinction between "classified" and "unclassified" trees, in so far as unreserved lands are concerned, in view of the fact that the ryot is hardly able to distinguish the one kind from the other, that the distinction varies from time to time, and wood sufficient in quantity and suitable for agricultural implements are not always and everywhere to be had from the "unclassified" trees in unreserved lands ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government considers that, in the true interests of the people, it is necessary to place some restriction on the felling of valuable trees on unreserved lands. The list of classified trees in a district is necessarily a somewhat long one, but the number to be found in any one village is rarely large, and as they are valuable trees they are ordinarily well known to the ryots. Though the distinction does vary from time to time as stated in the question, changes are very rarely made. A revision of the lists necessitated by the concession alluded to in the question is now under the consideration of Government, and when the revised lists have been published it is improbable that any material change will be made for many years to come.

It is no doubt the case that a sufficient quantity of wood suitable for agricultural implements cannot invariably be procured from the unclassified trees in unreserved land, but if the policy suggested were adopted, there would soon be no wood of the kind in any but the most sparsely populated tracts. On a recent occasion the Board of Revenue, in the desire to promote the public convenience, declined without further experience to place the Babul tree on the classified list in one district and the result was that, within fifteen days after the Board's decision was made known, 55,000 Babul trees had been removed by the villagers of one taluk alone.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

526 [XIV] *Question.*—Is the Government aware of the extreme hardship to which agricultural ryots and others are frequently subjected in prosecutions under the Madras Forest Act for being in possession of "forest produce", in consequence of the vast majority of the magistracy feeling themselves bound under, what they consider, authoritative interpretations of section 56 of the Act as to presumptions,

calling upon the accused persons at the very outset of the case to prove their innocence when absolutely no proof has been adduced that the "forest produce" they are in possession of has been "found in or brought from a forest" within the meaning of the Act ?

In view of this hardship, and in view of the fact that such a use of the section exposes the rural population to frequent extortions, will the Government be pleased to have the section repealed ?

If, for purposes of revenue, the Government deems the retention in the Act of some such provision necessary, will the Government be pleased to have the Act amended so that proceedings may be taken under it solely with a view to recover "forest produce" when such a presumption might be applied, while criminal prosecutions for forest offences might be conducted upon principles applicable to criminal trials generally ?

In view of the fact that the provisions of section 56 are merely enabling, will the Government point out to the magistracy, in the meanwhile, the undesirability of acting on it—at least in cases punishable with imprisonment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not in possession of any information tending to show that agricultural ryots and others are subjected to extreme hardship in consequence of the use of section 56 of the Forest Act. It cannot be held that the prosecution is bound to prove that the produce, in respect of which the charge is laid, was actually being brought from a forest. In its Proceedings, No. 167, dated 28th March 1895, which were communicated to all Collectors, the Board of Revenue directed, with reference to the institution of prosecutions in Forest cases, that the presumption against the accused raised by the provisions of section 56 of the Forest Act should not be taken advantage of in any case in which there was room for reasonable doubt, and Government has no reason to believe that these instructions are not generally attended to.

The Government thinks that there is no good ground to alter section 56 of the Forest Act. When any person is found in possession of forest produce and his possession is questioned, the effect of the section is to apply by express enactment the general doctrine of law that it is incumbent on a man to prove those facts which are especially within his knowledge. The section is necessary obviously for the protection of forest revenue and produce.

The provisions of the section do not appear to be "merely enabling" and the Government is not prepared to issue instructions to the magistracy in the sense suggested in the question. Such instructions would be illegal.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

527 [XV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) How many hours Mr. R. A. Nelson, Principal of the Law College, Madras, is, according to his contract, bound to devote for delivering lectures in the college—(1) in the week, (2) during the spring term, (3) during the autumn term, respectively ?

(*b*) Whether during the years 1895 and 1896 he delivered lectures in the classes for the full contract time, and if not, what are the reasons ?

(*c*) Whether, if the Government has no information on the subject, it will call for it and place the papers on the table ?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—In the agreement entered into by Mr. Nelson with the Secretary of State, no reference is made to the number of lectures to be delivered by him either in the week or in the term.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

528 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that natives of India are not allowed to compete for appointments in the Military Assistant Surgeons branch of the Indian Subordinate Medical Department, Madras Command, and if so, on what grounds are they excluded?

Is it a fact that the higher commissioned ranks are open to them?

(*b*) What educational qualifications are required of candidates for the above appointments?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the regulations made by the Government require the Hospital Assistant (Military) pupils to pass the compulsory subjects of the Upper Secondary examination or the Matriculation examination and that the candidates for the higher branch of the service, namely, the Military Assistant Surgeons, who should be Europeans or Eurasians, need not be passed men? If so, what is the reason of this distinction? Will it abolish this distinction? Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of admitting Indians to the latter appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—(*a*) The question asked in (*a*) by the Hon'ble Member refers to matters not within the control of the Governor in Council and therefore cannot be answered.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 9th February 1897.

(*c*) The answer to the first part of the question is "yes". The educational qualifications required of hospital assistant pupils are prescribed by this Government which sees no reason to modify them. As the remainder of the question relating to Assistant Surgeons refers to a matter not within the control of the Governor in Council it cannot be answered.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

529 [XVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of placing the Indian Assistants to the Professors of the Madras Medical College on a better footing with regard to pay and status?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government does not know what is wanted. It has recently ruled that Assistant Professorships in the College shall be held for a term of three years only. The Assistants in the Medical College are as well off as Assistants in Arts and other Colleges entrusted with similar duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

530 [XVIII] *Question.*—How many Civil Surgeons' places are there in this Presidency? Has any such ever been *permanently* held by an uncovenanted civil officer?

Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of permanently reserving the Civil Surgeons' places to the officers of the Uncovenanted Medical Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—There are ten Civil Surgeoncies including the additional Medical officer for six months in every year at Ootacamund. One of these is, and for some time past has been, permanently held by an Uncovenanted Civil Medical officer. The question of appointing officers of the Uncovenanted Medical Service permanently to certain of the Civil Surgeoncies is under correspondence with the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

531 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in 1894 the Government impressed upon the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras that the improvement and increase of "indigenous medical men" called for immediate attention?

(*b*) Did the Surgeon-General accordingly address the Government on the subject by his letter, dated 13th October 1894, No. 541?

(*c*) Has the Government considered his letter, and if so, what steps has it taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Surgeon-General made in the letter? Will it please place on the table the Government Order passed on this letter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is under consideration and will be disposed of with other extensive schemes for the reorganization of the Medical Department which are before Government.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

532 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is not Malabar the largest Muhammadan populated district in the Presidency, and the population of Muhammadans to Hindus about half?

(*b*) Considering these facts, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which all the high offices in the district have for years past been filled by persons of other communities than Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Census Report.

(*b*) If the Hon'ble Member will put the question again, stating what the facts to which he makes allusion are and what he means exactly by high offices, it will be replied to.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

533 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table G.O., No. 243, Marine, dated 8th April 1896—subject 'light-houses'?

(*b*) Has the Government sanctioned a scheme framed by Mr. F. W. Ashpitel, Executive Engineer, Light House Division, and the President of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association excluding all natives from holding higher appointments in Light House establishments and reserving them for Eurasians and Anglo-Indians?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—(*a*) The order in question has already been placed at the disposal of the Press [*vide Fort St. George Gazette* of the 28th July 1896, Part I, page 905]. The number is 245 and not 243.

(*b*) G.O., No. 245, Marine, dated 8th April 1896, referred to in the preceding answer, contains the orders of Government on the scheme in question. There is nothing in those orders to bar the employment of duly qualified natives.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

534 [XXII] *Question.*—Considering that the work of some of the District Munsifs' Courts in the Presidency has abnormally increased, does the Government or High Court contemplate making a proper distribution of work for these Courts? If so, when is it likely to come on?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is not contemplating any such redistribution, nor, so far as the Government is aware, is the High Court.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

535 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that at the last matriculation examination not a single candidate from the Government Madrasa secured a pass?

(*b*) Is it true that the results of the Madrasa were invariably unsatisfactory during Mr. Bower's incumbency?

(*c*) Is it also true that its results were always satisfactory at the time when the late Mr. Joyes was the headmaster 20 years ago?

(*d*) If, as the Government said * at the last meeting, the bad results of the Madrasa were due to the apathy of the students, how is it that many Muhammadan students have passed out from other institutions and also from the Madrasa under Mr. Joyes' tuition?

* 465 *supra*, p. 168.

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is true that none of the pupils of the Madrasa passed the last matriculation examination.

(*b*) If the Hon'ble Member would consult the University calendars and the reports of the Syndicate, he would be able to see for himself that it is not true that the results of the Madrasa were invariably unsatisfactory during Mr. Bower's incumbency. Mr. Bower was Headmaster from about the middle of 1890 to the middle of 1896. He may be held responsible for the results of 1891 to 1895 inclusive. During these years ten pupils passed the matriculation examination. During the five years from 1886 to 1890 also only ten passed that examination. During the same period Harris School passed twenty-five. The poor results obtained since 1892 when the matriculation by-laws were revised are noteworthy in both the Madrasa and the Harris Schools. The standard of English was then raised and a minimum was prescribed in Physics and Chemistry.

(*c*) During the ten years ending with 1872, 35 passed the matriculation from the Madrasa. The standard of the matriculation examination was lower then than it is now and its scope narrower. A comparison between the results of the Madrasa 25 years ago and the results now is of little value, unless all the changed circumstances are taken into account.

(*d*) The uniformly unfavourable results obtained by the Madrasa and the Harris School during the ten years ending with 1895 are mainly due to the causes specified in the answer † to the Hon'ble Member at the last meeting of the Council. The fact that they did slightly better when the examination was narrower in its scope and lower in its standard does not disprove the statement.

† *Ibid.*

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

536 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the pay of the Sanskrit Professor of the Presidency College Rs. 500?

(*b*) Cannot the pay and status of the Arabic and Persian munshi, who now only draws Rs. 80, be improved?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The appointments of Sanskrit Professor and Arabic and Persian munshi do not admit of comparison. The former is also Professor of Comparative Philology and is not a mere Sanskrit Pandit. The status and pay of the Persian and Arabic munshi can be compared only with those of the Tamil,

Telugu, Malayalam, Canarese and Sanskrit pandits. If the pay were to be regulated at all by the number of students, that of the Arabic and Persian munshi is comparatively too high.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

537 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Were the appointments and promotions of Police Inspectors confined to districts before, each district having a local staff of its own?

(*b*) Is the service now made general, and if so, what are the reasons for the change?

(*c*) Will it not be desirable to adopt a similar procedure as regards Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars for the same reasons?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; the change was introduced as it was considered that it would conduce to the efficiency of the Police force.

(*c*) No. The proposal for a general grading of all the Tahsildars in the Presidency was carefully considered by Government in 1892 and abandoned.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

538 [XXVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to transfer the Court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate to Black Town as the work there is of a more important and complicated nature than in Egmore, the former being the business centre of mercantile and naval firms and of various influential communities?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government has no present intention of transferring the Chief Presidency Magistrate's Court to Black Town.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

539 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a correspondence reported in the *Muhammadan*, dated 28th December 1896, under the heading "Our Sub-Collector and his heroic deeds," and are the facts stated therein true?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Mr. A. Chunder Dutt, the Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, struck his Muhammadan head clerk in the face, because the latter unwittingly touched his hand while handing over some official papers? If so, what notice was taken of such conduct by the District Collector when the matter was reported to him?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the letter referred to; it is not aware whether the statements there made are true.

(*b*) The Government has no information on the subject, but if any one has any complaint to make, he can do so to Mr. Dutt's official superiors.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

540 [XXVIII] *Question.*—With reference to a letter from a correspondent in Vellore published in the *Muhammadan Advocate of India* of January 1897, will the Government be pleased to state under what circumstances the mosque in the Vellore Fort has been closed against Muhammadans and used as a store-room, and whether it could not now be made available for its legitimate use?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

Answer.—Inquiry will be made into the truth of the circumstances alleged and if the Hon'ble Member will be good enough to repeat his question at the next meeting * of Council it will be answered.

* 599 *infra*, p. 217.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

468 to 471 *supra*, p. 170.

541 [XXIX] *Question.*—Bearing in view the information * elicited at the last meeting of the Council regarding the appointments of Vernacular Translators to Government, will the Government be pleased to confer the Hindustani Translatorship on a qualified Muhammadan, seeing that all other similar appointments are held by native gentlemen?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price:—

Answer.—The post of Hindustani Translator to Government is not vacant; when it becomes so the claims of all candidates for it will be considered.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

542 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what necessity exists for the office of the Paymaster, Carnatic Stipends, being maintained separately at much expense to Government instead of being amalgamated with the Accountant-General's or Collector's office, Madras?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that for a long time past this office has been in unfavourable evidence before the public as regards the conduct of some of its subordinates which resulted in police enquiries being held?

(*c*) If, in the opinion of the Government, the office must continue separately as heretofore, will the Government be pleased so to reorganize the establishment as to remove the cause for present grievance in the community and further to nominate an officer as Paymaster who can depend on his own judgment and see things for himself?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price:—

Answer.—(*a*) The duties of the Paymaster, Carnatic Stipends, some of which are of a very special character, are not such that they could be performed by either the Accountant-General or the Collector of Madras.

(*b*) The Government is not aware of anything such as alleged in the question. Two inquiries have been held by the Police into the conduct of members of the office of the Paymaster. The first of these was in 1890 on the complaint of the Paymaster himself and Government then took due notice of the conduct of those with whom fault could be found. The second occasion was in 1894 when one Ahmed Muhideen Khan Bahadur preferred a series of charges against the Manager of the office who was honourably acquitted and who subsequently prosecuted A. Muhideen Khan Bahadur to conviction for defamation.

(*c*) The Government considers any further reorganization of the establishment of the Paymaster at the present time unnecessary. The question of the selection of an officer to fill the office of Paymaster is under the consideration of the Governor in Council.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

543 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Government sanctioned the acquisition of land for a hostel for the Kumbakónam College?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which necessitated the land being obtained under the Act instead of by private transaction?

(*c*) Considering that the construction of a building for the Madrasa has been delayed for the past five or six years for want of a site, cannot a similar procedure be adopted under the Act to secure a proper site for it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The land is trust property and in order to perfect the title it was deemed desirable to acquire the land under the Land Acquisition Act.

(*c*) The question is still under the consideration of Government, but there are financial difficulties.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

544 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Educational department experienced any difficulty in getting a sufficient number of students for the Agricultural and Teachers' Colleges?

(*b*) Considering that these institutions are at present located in an outlying place, will the Government be pleased to remove them to a central quarter in Madras so as to be easily accessible to the large head-quarter population?

(*c*) Cannot Agricultural experiments be usefully made in the People's Park, seeing that it is in the heart of the town and daily resorted to by a large number of visitors?

(*d*) Will there be any objection to make agriculture an optional subject for the B.A. degree and amalgamate the Agricultural College with the Presidency College?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan:—

Answer.—(*a*) There is no difficulty in getting a sufficient number of students for the Agricultural College, except that the two scholarships set apart for Muhammadans are seldom appropriated. As for the Teachers' College, the number of applicants is far in excess of the number that can be admitted —sometimes twice as many.

(*b*) No. The Teachers' College was formerly situated in Madras and was removed to Saidapet for reasons which at that time were deemed sufficient. The prosperous condition of the institution since its removal to Saidapet has fully justified the step. Three training schools—branches of the Teachers' College—are maintained by Government within the municipality of Madras. The Teachers' College is an institution established for the training of teachers from all parts of the Presidency, except the Ceded Districts and the Northern Circars, and not for the special benefit of teachers at the head-quarters of Government.

The Government is not prepared to take the retrograde step of removing the College of Agriculture to Madras, the most important or practical part of the work of the college could not be carried on there for want of a farm.

(*c*) The People's Park is not a suitable locality in which to conduct agricultural experiments; nor is it the property of Government.

(*d*) With regard to the first part of the question the Hon'ble Member should address the Registrar of the University. The second part has already been answered in the negative.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

545 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Considering the great inconvenience caused to parties by the location of the District Court at Chingleput, which is not a central station, will the Government be pleased to remove it to Saidapet, which is the head-quarters of the Collector of the district, and make use of the Agricultural College building for the Court, in case of the amalgamation of the College with the Presidency College being decided upon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price:—

Answer.—There is no present intention of moving the District and Sessions Court at Chingleput to Saidapet.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR:—

546 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the average amount per head earned by famine-workers in each of the districts where relief works are in progress in the months of January, February and March 1897?

(*b*) Are such amounts sufficient according to medical opinion to sustain the workers in a state of health and efficiency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The average amount per head earned by famine-workers in each of the districts where relief works are in progress in the months of January, February and March 1897 cannot be given. To obtain the figures would require the employment of a large establishment and a prolonged series of calculations.

(*b*) In the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, wages A and B provide a diet sufficient to buoy the population over a period not exceeding three months. He considers them to be insufficient to preserve the population in strength and health for a longer period, owing to absence of sufficient provision for vegetable salts. The C wage he considers sufficient for untasked labour, and the D wage for temporary penal diet. The Government of India is being addressed on the subject. Meanwhile orders have been issued to place all able-bodied labourers in class A or B, and the weakly, from whom but a nominal task only is to be required, in class C.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

547 [XXXV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to order the reduction of the tasks wherever the quantity prescribed at present is too high to enable the famine-workers to earn amounts sufficient for their maintenance in health and strength?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Orders have been issued to adapt the tasks to the capacity of the workers so as to enable the latter to earn the full wage of the class in which they may be placed.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

548 [XXXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that there are a large number of weavers in the Proddatur and Pulivendla taluks of the Cuddapah district, who are in urgent need of employment and deserve to be relieved under the scheme for the relief of weavers?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to start, at an early date, the scheme for weavers' relief in the aforementioned taluks, as in the Jammalamadugu taluk?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes. In his fortnightly narrative for the latter half of February, the Collector of Cuddapah reported that the weavers in Proddatur and Pulivendla taluks were likely to need help in the near future.

(*b*) The Collector has already called for proposals from his Divisional-officers for the relief of weavers in these two taluks.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

549 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that some forest reserves were ordered to be opened for free grazing of cattle in the affected tracts of the Presidency at the commencement of the distress, and that all such reserves have been closed for free grazing after the rains of November 1896?

(*b*) Whether in the affected tracts of the Presidency the rains in November have not been too scanty to improve the prospects therein?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to order, at an early date, the reopening of suitable forest reserves in all the affected districts for free grazing with a view to save the cattle, as required in rule No. 139 of the Madras Famine Code?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) On the 8th November last, the Collector of Cuddapah ordered certain reserves in his district to be thrown open to free grazing, but cancelled his order six days later, on learning from the Conservator that no such order could be issued without the sanction of the Board of Revenue, and on the 25th November he reported that he was making inquiries on the lines indicated by the Conservator and the Board, and would submit a further communication if any action was necessary towards allowing free grazing in any part of the district. No such communication has as yet been received by the Board. So far as the Board is aware, Cuddapah is the only district in which reserves once opened were closed, and the closure was not on account of the November rains.

(*b*) Experience has shown that the rains in November were not sufficient to avert distress in the Deccan districts. There was much sowing under those rains in the affected districts, but the crops generally failed. Prospects were so far improved that the withered crops have yielded fodder, and pasture and water-supply were temporarily improved.

(*c*) On the 27th October last, the Board of Revenue called on the Collectors of affected districts to report whether any relief could be afforded by opening to grazing forest reserves which were then closed, or by admitting cattle either free or at reduced rates of grazing fees, and instructions were at the same time issued that no mere question of loss of grazing revenue should be regarded as a bar to concessions which would be likely to have a beneficial effect. On consideration of the reports received, orders were issued sanctioning the opening of a certain number of closed reserves, which presumably Collectors have not again closed, the reduction of existing rates in cases in which such a step was recommended by local officers, and the throwing open of reserves to the free cutting of grass at the discretion of the local officers. It was not considered advisable to open any reserves for free grazing, one of the main reasons being that in almost all the reserves in question grazing permits had been issued in numbers, which in a season like the present were in many cases more than up to the full capacity of the reserves concerned, and in such cases the throwing open of the reserves to free grazing would have tended to the sacrifice of valuable cattle in favour of animals which had not been considered worth paying for. Some local officers have intimated an intention to consider the question of allowing free grazing after the permits now in force have expired, but no further representations have as yet been received. No further orders seem at present to be called for.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

550 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—In view to the great hardship caused by the unfavourable season to the people of the Deccan and the Northern districts, will the Government be pleased to order all facilities to be afforded by the Forest officers to people seeking forest produce, utilizable as human food, in forest reserves, as required in rule No. 141, Chapter X of the Madras Famine Code?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—As section 141 of the Famine Code contains a specific direction to District Forest officers, who are the Collectors' Assistants, and as Government has some time ago ordered that simple trespass on a forest reserve should not be considered an offence, it is not likely that any difficulties have been thrown in the way of persons seeking food in a forest reserve. No case calling for the issue of special orders with reference to the section has as yet come under notice.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

551 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to grant dry remissions in all cases of total failure of crops, and in cases where the yield has admittedly been middling or poor, in consideration of the general distress in the affected districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Under Standing Order No. 23 of the Board of Revenue, the granting of dry remissions is a matter of which the Board of Revenue can dispose. The Board of Revenue has called for, and in some cases received, reports, and will deal with the matter. Certain papers on the subject were placed at the disposal of the Hon'ble Member at the meeting of this Council held on the 9th of February 1897 *. The matter will be dealt with on the lines laid down in B.P., No 94, dated 3rd February 1897, of which a copy will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member.

*483 *supra*, p. 176.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

552 [XL] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if orders have been issued by the Government or the Board of Revenue to make a fieldwar inspection in the affected tracts, to ascertain the extent of failure of crops therein ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state in what districts of the affected area a complete fieldwar inspection has already been made, and in what district such steps have not been undertaken ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to grant remissions tractwar instead of fieldwar in districts where fieldwar azmaish has not been already made, in view to the facts that the superior officers of the Revenue Department, such as Tahsildars and Divisional Officers, have from time to time ascertained the condition of crops from general inspections during their tours and that it is generally impossible to undertake such inspection now ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes. The following order was issued on 6th November 1896 :—

"(1) In view of the extremely unfavourable character of the season, Collectors of the Deccan districts are requested to consider whether in any part or parts of their districts it is advisable to postpone the collection of the revenue demand this year or even to remit any portion of the dry assessment. Early arrangements should be made for careful and detailed inspection of the affected tracts under section 18 of the Famine Code and proposals for remissions or postponement of revenue, based on the personal inspection of superior officers, should be drawn up. The conditions prescribed in paragraph 4 of Standing Order No. 23 should be borne in mind in framing proposals for dry remissions.

"(2) In all cases in which the grant of remissions may be considered necessary the Collectors are authorized to suspend the collection of the December kist in anticipation of the orders of the Board."

(*b*) The Government is not able to state that a complete *fieldwar* inspection has already been made in any district, but tractwar inspection is being made, or has been made, in all districts. As in all years, the azmaish of wet crops will be made fieldwar.

(*c*) Remissions will be granted according to the usual rules. Wet fields will, as usual, be dealt with individually ; dry fields, as usual, by tracts. Collectors of affected districts have already been called on to submit proposals for remission on dry lands according to the usual method, *i.e.*, tractwar.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

553 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that no allowance is made for vegetables, buttermilk, and oil in the rations allowed to children of relief-workers fed at relief-kitchens ?

(*b*) Whether, according to medical opinion, such provision is necessary for maintaining the children in proper health ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to issue necessary orders on the subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to sections 122 to 125 of the Famine Code.

(*b*) The diet allowed in the Famine Code for children in kitchens has been fixed in consultation with the medical authorities.

(*c*) The Government does not consider it necessary to issue any orders on the subject.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

554 [XLII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to pass orders to open and so locate relief works in the different districts of the affected tracts, as to afford labour to people, without being compelled to travel a longer distance than three miles at the utmost from their homes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—As a rule, and wherever practicable, relief works will be located at or near the homes of the labourers. But a hard-and-fast rule of the kind suggested is likely to give rise to considerable practical difficulty. To meet the case of labourers who have to come to the works from a distance, the Government has directed that shelter should be provided at or near the works and that, where this has not been done, the distance which the labourers have to walk to and from the works should be allowed for on a suitable time scale and thus form part of the day's task ; a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles being taken as the equivalent of an hour's work.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

555 [XLIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In what districts of the affected area, and to what extent, have the Government brought into operation the measures for the grant of gratuitous relief to the destitute poor who are unable to work, provided for in Chapter VI of the Madras Famine Code ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state when it intends to start such measures in affected districts where they have not yet been introduced ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Kitchens for feeding dependants of labourers have been opened on all works in the affected districts. Destitute poor have been fed in parts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam, and the entertainment of Circle Inspectors and the introduction of gratuitous village-relief was sanctioned last February in certain affected tracts of Bellary and Kurnool. As to the extent to which gratuitous relief has been afforded, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the weekly season reports.

(*b*) The Government has already ordered the introduction of this form of relief in all portions of affected tracts.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

556 [XLIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if any, and if so, how many, Local Fund primary schools have been closed in each of the Deccan districts during the years 1895 and 1896, and to what extent the allotments for result grants have been curtailed in the said districts in the said years ?

(*b*) Has not the utmost margin of Local Fund revenues available for expenditure on primary education, consistently with the demands of other services, been reached in the said districts ?

(*c*) In view to the great need and vast scope that exist in the backward districts of the Deccan to extend primary education, will the Government be pleased to order the payment of grants for the 3rd standard from Provincial revenues, thereby releasing the funds available from Local Fund revenues, for development of primary education up to the 2nd standard only ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The information required by the Hon'ble Member can be obtained from the Local Fund administration reports and budgets of the districts referred to. The reports and budgets have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) This is a matter of opinion. There is no fixed proportion of Local Fund revenue laid down by Government as assignable for primary education.

(*c*) Government has already given substantial relief to local funds by provincializing the board training schools; and it cannot afford the expenditure necessary to give effect to the Hon'ble Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

557 [XLV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it true that Government has sanctioned a rule made by the Madras Law College to the effect that students desirous of attending lectures on subjects prescribed for the F.L. Examination will be admitted to the Law College only after they pass the English and Science branches of the B.A. Degree Examination ?

(*b*) Is not such a rule inconsistent with by-law No. 173 of the University which permits such students to attend the above lectures for two terms prior to passing the B.A. Examination ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased under the circumstances to cancel the Law College rule referred to in part (*a*) of this question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The rule is not considered inconsistent with the by-law.

(*c*) Clause (*c*) therefore requires no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

558 [XLVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proceedings of the Senate meeting held on the 25th March 1897 (published in the *Hindu* newspaper of the 26th idem) and to the following remarks said to have been made by the Vice-Chancellor and by the Principal (Mr. Nelson) of the Law College subsequent to the rejection by the Senate of certain proposals of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shephard in respect of the F.L and the B.L. examinations ?—

"The Vice-Chancellor—I hope that Mr. Nelson would stick to his rules."

"Mr. Nelson—I would take care that every student took four years and two months before going up for the (B.L.) Examination."

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take steps to prevent effect being given to the threat conveyed in Mr. Nelson's remark ?

(*c*) Will Government be further pleased to direct the Principal and the Council of the Law College to frame rules in such a manner as to enable a student, subject to the restrictions imposed by the Senate's by-laws, to finish his attendance at the Law College within three years from the date of his joining it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) This portion of the question requires no answer.

(*c*) No. The rules of the Law College do not prevent a student from finishing his attendance at the Law College within three years from the date of his joining it.

The Hon'ble Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

559 [XLVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any objection to the publication of the lectures delivered by the Professors and Lecturers of the Law College to the students of that college ?

(*b*) If there is none, will Government be pleased to direct their periodical publication ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to both questions is "No".

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

560 [XLVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Accountant-General of Madras compels all Municipalities and District Boards to get all printing works done in the Lawrence Asylum Press, Madras ? If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

Answer.—For reasons of uniformity and economy the Government decided in 1891 that the forms of municipal accounts should be printed in some central press under the Accountant-General's supervision and supplied to all Municipal Councils on indent. The selection of the press to be employed for the purpose was left to the discretion of the Accountant-General who chose for the Municipal work the Lawrence Asylum Press as giving the most satisfactory terms. And in 1894 similar arrangements were ordered to be made as regards the forms of accounts required by the Local Boards. The contract for the Local Fund work has however not yet been concluded, and the District Boards will for another year continue their present local arrangements.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

561 [XLIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the total increase in the expenditure on the salaries of educational officers consequent on the reorganization now being introduced into that department, and also how much of this increase is due to the changes in the European Educational service and how much of it is due to the changes in the Native service ? Will the Government be pleased to state the highest salary which a *Native of India* would get under the new scheme and how much he would have got under the old scheme ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The ultimate financial effect of the reorganization of the Educational services is a decrease of Rs. 3,356-10-8 a month in the European service and an increase of Rs. 3,093-5-4 in the Provincial service, or in the cases of the two services together a decrease of Rupees 263-5-4 a month.

The highest salary which a Native of India will get under the new scheme is Rs. 700 a month; under the old scheme he might have risen to Rs. 1,000, provided he succeeded in getting promotion to the first class of the graded service, but no such case ever occurred.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

562 [L] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what proportion of the grant annually disbursed by Government on account of education is being appropriated for the institutions under Christian Missionary management; and will the Government be pleased to state the figures for the last five years showing the sums appropriated to missionary and non-missionary institutions ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The returns prescribed by the Government of India do not require expenditure on mission and non-mission institutions to be distinguished, and particulars are not, therefore, available to show the expenditure on institutions under mission and non-mission management. Government is not prepared to order that such returns should be prepared. Schools are aided impartially in accordance with the needs of the locality and the efficiency of the institutions concerned, quite irrespective of the religious creed of their managers. It is a fundamental principle of the Grant-in-Aid Code that aid is given for educational purposes solely.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

563 & 564 *Questions.*— **563** [LI].—Will the Government be pleased to state under what circumstances Mr. R. A. Nelson, the Principal of the Law College, is allowed to practise as a Barrister while receiving his salary as Principal; and whether this concession to him is not opposed to the reasons for which a Barrister from England was appointed Principal?

564 [LII].—Is the rule that "the Principal shall devote his whole time to the work of the College, and shall be debarred from pursuing his profession as a Barrister except in consulting or chamber practice" still in force? If not, under what circumstance was it modified or abrogated?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

563 } *Answer.*—On his re-engagement in May last the condition referred
564 } to in question LII * was modified, and Mr. Nelson was permitted to
564. practise in the Courts in Madras City on the understanding that such practice should not in any way interfere with his performance of his duties as Principal, and that if at any time it should appear to His Excellency in Council that the privilege does so interfere, it should be competent to the Government to withdraw the privilege and require him to restrict himself to chamber practice.

563. The answer to the latter part of question LI † is "No".

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

565 [LIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Mr. Nelson does not adhere to the rule of the Law College that "the Principal shall devote not less than eight hours a week to lectures and not less than seven hours a week to holding of classes" and that he works only five hours a week? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Nelson does so with its sanction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Mr. Nelson represented that he was unable to devote to lectures and classes the full time laid down in the rules, owing, among other things, to want of accommodation. The Government is aware of the circumstance, and the subject will receive consideration as soon as the College enters on the occupation of the new buildings.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

566 [LIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to obtain information as to how many years it was the practice in the Law class and in the Law College to admit students who had applied for admission to the B.L. class as soon as their B.A. examination was over and before the results were published? Is the same practice continued now in the Law College? If not, when was it discontinued and did the Principal obtain the previous sanction of Government for so changing the practice?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—Previously to 1889, when the Law course was a two years' course, students who had appeared for the B.A. examination were admitted before the results of that examination were known. If they failed in the examination the fee was refunded and they left the Law class. After the extension in January 1889 of the course to three years, two of which must be after passing the examination for the degree of B.A., candidates for the B.A. degree examination continued to be admitted before the B.A. results were published; and if they failed to pass the complete examination they were allowed the option of either leaving the College and claiming a refund of the fee, or of continuing in the College, running the risk of failing again at the B.A. examination and thus losing the whole of the first year's attendance at the Law College. Experience showed that this arrangement did not work well and led to the neglect of their law studies by the students during the first year of their course. Opportunity was, therefore, taken by the department and Government of the revision of the College rules in 1895 to require that candidates for admission to the College shall have passed at least in the English and Science divisions of the B.A. degree examination. The preparation for the Second Language division of the B.A. examination was not considered to be so detrimental to their law studies as preparation for the other two divisions. From January 1896 admissions have been regulated according to this rule.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

567 [LV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has vetoed up to date any resolution passed by the Senate of the Madras University? Is it true that the Government has deferred final disposal of the resolution, recently passed at a meeting of the Senate, cancelling the compulsory attendance of students failing in B.A. examination in a college for a further period of two terms and submitted by the Senate for the approval of Government, till the Senate should dispose of the question of the affiliated Colleges to the University?

Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has fixed any time within which the Senate should report upon this latter question? If it has not done so, will it be pleased to fix the period within which the report should be submitted?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to the questions in the first paragraph is "Yes" and that to the questions in the second paragraph is "No".

21. MEETING OF THE 23RD NOVEMBER 1897.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

568 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased, in consideration of the convenience and the relief it would afford to those who pay land-cess, to fix definite periods for its revision by the Collectors of districts ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The procedure for the revision is already fixed by law.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

569 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of instructing the Local Boards to include Sanskrit and Arabic in the branches of education to be encouraged by such boards, under sub-section (iv) of section 95 of the Local Boards Act, and of encouraging purely indigenous schools by giving grants-in-aid for the study of these languages ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to issue instructions as proposed, the matter being one, which, in the opinion of Government, should be left to the discretion and initiative of Local Boards. The Grant-in-aid Code provides for the payment of a grant-in-aid not exceeding one-third of their salary to teachers of oriental languages in recognized highclass indigenous schools in which Sanskrit, Arabic or Persian is taught. Grants for furniture and other objects provided in the Code are also paid to such schools.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

570 [III] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that minors, under the Court of Wards, who are educated in Madras, are put to great inconvenience by spending three months of every year in Ootacamund ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The answer to this question is in the negative.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

571 & 572 *Questions.*—**571** [IV].—Will the Government be pleased to direct the Court of Wards to allow the minors, like other pupils, to spend the midsummer holidays at home with their friends, instead of at Ootacamund ?

572 [V].—Will the Government be pleased, with a view to remedy defects, if any, to order an inquiry to be made by a competent authority—such, for instance, as the Director of Public Instruction—into the present system of educating the minor zamindars ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

571 } *Answer.*—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answers given to
572 } questions Nos. XXVII and XXIX * put at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 9th December 1896.

* 400 and 402 *supra*, p. 145.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

573 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government, looking to the importance of minor zamindars' learning the use and value of money, be pleased to direct the Court of Wards to allot pocket-money to their wards proportionate to the income of their estates and varying in amount with the age of the wards ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to issue any general instructions as suggested, but will communicate the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Court of Wards.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

574 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the increasing importance of the courts of the District Munsifs, which form the ground-work of the bulk of the litigation in this Presidency, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of altering their designations and styling them as "Assistant Judges," following the analogy of "Sub-Collectors" and "Assistant Collectors" ?

(*b*) If Government approves of the suggestion, will it be pleased to cause a short Bill to be introduced to amend section 8 of the Madras Civil Courts Act 3 of 1873 ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to make the alteration suggested by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

575 [VIII] *Question.*—In view of the hard work which the District Munsifs as a body are doing, will Government be pleased to address the High Court with reference to section 30 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, in view to the period of their recess being fixed as two months, similar to the recess of the courts of the Subordinate and District Judges ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—The Government cannot interfere in this matter, which is left to the discretion of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

576 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to the question No. LVII * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Jambulingam Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Council, dated 9th December 1896, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of reducing the rates of process-fees levied in the courts of Subordinate and District Judges to the scale obtaining in the courts of the District Munsifs ?

* 430 *supra*, p. 155.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The question is at present under consideration by the High Court and the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

577 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to question No. XII † by the Hon'ble Mr. Sankaran Nayar at the meeting of the Council, dated 22nd January 1895, and the answer to it, is Government in possession of the information on the following matter, and, if so, will it place the same at the disposal of the Press :—

† 140 *supra*, p. 58.

The number of individual holdings in the district of Tanjore the increase of whose assessment at the recent settlement is between

1 and	25 per cent.	and above	200 per cent.
25 „	50 „	„	300 „
50 „	75 „	„	400 „
75 „	100 „	„	500 „
100 „	200 „		

(*b*) If Government is not in possession of the information, will it be pleased to call for the same ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A copy of the communication on the subject addressed to the Hon'ble Mr. Sankaran Nayar on 13th February 1895 will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member with the remark that no reply to that communication has yet been received by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

578 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that mirasidars in Tanjore and other districts are greatly hampered in their agricultural work by the free emigration to the Straits Settlements of their labourers, and that the action of the licensed recruiters in proceeding to out-of-the-way villages and in removing labourers in the midst of the cultivation season is producing incalculable mischief and loss to the landholders?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, will Government provide adequate restrictions to safeguard the interests of the landholders in protecting their agricultural labour either by executive orders or by causing the necessary legislative action to be taken towards securing an amendment of the Indian Emigration Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) If by the term mirasidar the Hon'ble Member means puttadar, the Government is not aware that puttadars in Tanjore and elsewhere are greatly hampered in their agricultural work by free emigration to the Straits Settlements, or that the action of recruiters in procuring emigrants is producing incalculable mischief and loss to the landholders.

(*b*) The Government is not prepared to make an inquiry into the matter. The emigration of labourers from British India to the Straits Settlements is now free from all restrictions, and labourers are free to go or stay as they may find to be to their advantage.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

579 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that, with the present low pay, ranging between Rs. 6 and Rs. 8 per mensem, of the village karnams (accountants) who form the ground-work of the revenue administration of the country, they cannot keep themselves above temptation, and that they are generally in receipt of a regular scale of perquisites in grain and money from the landholders, which are considered perfectly innocent by the payers as well as the payees?

(*b*) If Government is not aware of the above, will it be pleased to call for a report upon the matter?

(*c*) If Government be satisfied of the truth of the statements in clause (*a*) of this question, what steps will be taken to improve the status and salary of this important class of public servants, and whether the necessary provision will be made in the budget of the ensuing financial year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on the point. The pay of village karnams ranges ordinarily from Rs. 6 to Rs. 15 according to the beriz of the charge and not from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 as stated by the Hon'ble Member.

(*b*) The Government does not consider it necessary to call for a report on the matter.

(*c*) For reasons unconnected with those urged in clause (*a*) of the question, proposals for improving the position of karnams are under consideration and the necessary provision will be made in the budget of the ensuing financial year.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

580 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Does Government consider that village munsifs, who exercise important judicial functions, both civil and criminal, and who deal with 23 per cent. of the total civil litigation of this Presidency, are adequately paid under the existing scale, which ranges between 5 and 7 rupees per mensem?

(*b*) Will Government take into consideration the necessity of improving the status and salary of these officers at least in important towns and places, where a large quantity of civil and criminal work is done by them?

(*c*) In view of the importance of the duties they discharge, will Government be pleased to arrange for a decent scale of pay being sanctioned for them, ranging between 25 and 50 rupees per mensem in important towns and places at least to begin with, and will Government be pleased to make the necessary provision in the budget of the ensuing year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative. The pay of a village munsif ordinarily ranges between Rs. 5 and Rs. 12 according to the beriz of his charge and not between Rs. 5 and Rs. 7 as stated by the Hon'ble Member.

(*b*) Pay in excess of the scale is sanctioned to village munsifs in exceptional cases on the recommendation of the district officers and the Board of Revenue.

(*c*) The Government is not prepared at present to raise the salaries of village munsifs as suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

581 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the system now in force on the railways under the control of this Government for watching the permanent-way and bridges?

(*b*) Whether the arrangements for watching are in force throughout the year or only during the monsoons, and if latter is the case, will Government be pleased to give directions for perennial watch being maintained especially during nights?

(*c*) Whether in view of the accidents resulting from the collapse of bridges on railways, will Government be pleased to institute periodical inspections of the structures and direct the furnishing of certificates as to their soundness?

(*d*) Whether in view of the enormous interests at stake both as regards life and property, will Government be pleased to direct that each bridge on the railways be watched both by day and night by separate watchmen throughout the year independent of watchers for the permanent-way?

(*e*) Whether in connection with this the attention of Government has been drawn to a correspondence by "I.F." in the *Madras Mail* of the 30th October, in which the writer suggests the desirability of fitting up each bridge at either end with automatic lights with red shutters connected with a wire across the bridge, so arranged that any collapse would release the shutters, and the driver of a train seeing a red light would stop?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to cause the above suggestion to be investigated by professional men, and if the suggestion be found feasible, will Government issue orders for the same being carried out on all the railways under its control?

(*g*) Whether Government will be pleased to obtain copies of all papers connected with the investigation of the recent Mallur bridge collapse on the Southern Mahratta Railway made under the orders of the Government of India, together with the final reports of the Committee of Inquiry and the order thereon, and to place the same on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The system in force will be found printed as Appendices A and B of Senior Government Inspector's report, dated 28th October 1897.

(*b*) During monsoons only. The reply to the latter part of this question is in the negative.

(*c*) In the opinion of Government the system of half-yearly inspections at present in force is sufficient and suitable for the purpose of gaining all the information possible to be gained by means of inspection.

(*d*) The Government sees no reason to pass such an order.

(*e*) & (*f*) The arrangement referred to would be of no practical use.

(*g*) A copy of the Senior Government Inspector's report referred to above, which contains all that is known about the Mallur bridge accident, will be communicated to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

582 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been called to the occurrence of several casualties among native sailing vessels plying in the Bay of Bengal within the last two years, and whether it is a fact that the vessels *Mahomed Samudhani*, *Colonel Fitche* and *Henrietta Elizabeth* which sailed for the Nicobars from Negapatam on the same day in July 1896 have been lost with either partial or total loss of life and cargo?

(*b*) Whether it is true that nothing has been heard of the vessel *Mahomed Samudhani* up to date, or whether Government or the Port authorities are in possession of any information touching the crew who were in that vessel, and, if any information is available, whether Government will publish it?

(*c*) Whether two other sailing vessels named the *Queen of England* and *Kistnamoorthy*, which sailed for the Nicobars from the Coromandel coast within the past two or three months of the current year, have also been drowned? What were the causes of the casualties in these two cases, and what were the losses of life, if any, and cargo?

(*d*) Has section 7 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act VII of 1880 been extended by this Government to all the ports in this Presidency, and, if not, what are the ports at which the section is in force?

(*e*) Who are the detaining officers appointed by the Government under section 11 of the above Act, and whether these officers have been exercising the powers conferred upon them under this section for the purpose of testing the seaworthiness of native sailing vessels periodically?

(*f*) Is it a fact that no periodical inspection of these vessels is made and that no certificates are issued to the owners regarding their seaworthiness or otherwise?

(*g*) If it is so, will Government be pleased to insist upon half-yearly inspections of these vessels being made by responsible professional officers, in view to unseaworthy vessels being detained?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to casualties among native sailing vessels plying in the Bay of Bengal within the last two years. It is a fact that the vessels *Colonel Fitche* and *Henrietta Elizabeth* have been wrecked with loss of life and cargo.

(*b*) So far as can be ascertained, the vessel *Mahomed Samudhani* was not wrecked in July 1896. She was in the port of Negapatam in September 1897.

(*c*) There is no information as to the wreck of the barque *Queen of England*. The craft *Kistnamoorthy* was disabled between Masulipatam and Calcutta by a cyclone on the 1st October 1897. The tindal and crew of the vessel —17 in number—were all rescued by the *Ceres* and taken to Negapatam. The vessel itself, which was a total wreck and a danger to navigation, was set on fire.

(*d*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the notifications which appeared in the *Fort Saint George Gazette* of the years 1880 and 1892, pages 222 and 1354, respectively, Part I.

(*e*) & (*f*) The Deputy Conservator of the Port of Madras and the Port Officer of each of the ports to which section 7 has been extended are "detaining officers" within the meaning of that section. The Government has no reason to believe that these officers do not exercise the powers conferred on them by law. They are not required to test the seaworthiness of native sailing vessels periodically, but only when there is reason to believe that a ship is unsafe—*vide* section 7 of the Act.

(*g*) The Government sees no reason to go beyond the requirements of the law.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

583 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether Government will be pleased to invest the courts of the three Subordinate Judges in the district of Tanjore with the functions of a District Court under the Succession Certificate Act, VII of 1889, as provided in section 26?

(*b*) Whether Government will be pleased to invest the present Subordinate Judge at Tanjore with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge?

(*c*) Whether, to avoid inconvenience, delay, and expense to suitors and in view of the fact that the District Courts alone exercise powers under the Act, Government will be pleased, in consultation with the High Court, to invest with such powers the courts of the District Munsifs and Subordinate Judges which are situated at considerable distances from the District Court stations?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is not prepared to move in the matter, except on the recommendation of the High Court.

(*b*) The Government is not prepared to take the action proposed.

(*c*) The Government will not move in the matter, except on the recommendation of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

584 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether any Subordinate Judge's Court "established in any district at a place remote from the station of the District Court" (proviso No. 1 to section 13 of the Madras Civil Courts Act III of 1873) has been invested with direct appellate jurisdiction over the District Munsifs within the local limits of such Subordinate Judge's Court? and, if so, what Subordinate Judges' Courts have been so invested?

(*b*) If no Subordinate Judges' Courts have been so invested, will Government, in view of the object of the legislature in the above proviso to serve the convenience of suitors, be pleased to invest the Subordinate Judges whose courts are established at places remote from the District Court stations with direct appellate jurisdiction over the District Munsifs within their respective jurisdictions?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Subordinate Judges of Cocanada and Ootacamund have been invested with, and exercise, direct appellate jurisdiction over District Munsifs.

(*b*) The Government will not move in the matter, except on the recommendation of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

585 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it permissible under the rules now in force for the Non-official Members of this Honourable Council to use service-postage stamps in the transmission of their official correspondence with the Secretary to Government and others?

(*b*) If the existing rules in section IX of the Indian Postal Guide will not permit of the above procedure, will Government be pleased to take steps to have the rules amended in view to granting the concession to the Non-official Members?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The correspondence conducted by Non-official Members of the Legislative Council as such, is non-official correspondence, and the use of service-postage stamps is therefore inadmissible.

(*b*) Section 341 of the Postal Guide provides by the "Service unpaid" system for the transmission to officials by non-officials of correspondence relating to the affairs of Government. The Government therefore sees no need for recommending an amendment of the rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

586 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to give orders for the Non-official Members of this Honourable Council being supplied with copies of all papers usually placed at the disposal of the Press?

(*b*) If Government is not prepared to do so, will it be pleased to arrange for the Non-official Members being supplied with copies of all Government Orders passing orders on departmental budgets as they are issued from time to time and the departmental administration reports with the Government reviews thereon, and such other papers and blue books as may be of service to them in the discharge of their duties?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 44, Legislative, dated 31st May 1895, on the subject of the supply of official papers to Non-official Members of the Legislative Council, a copy of which will be furnished to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

587 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the total receipt under the head of "Port-funds" in the port of Negapatam during the past fifteen years, and what is the total expenditure defrayed therefrom during the same period upon the improvement of the above port?

(*b*) Has any representation been made to Government by the Landing and Shipping Dues Committee of Negapatam regarding the necessity of erecting a pier and what reply has been made by Government?

(*c*) In view of the increasing importance of the above port and the condition of the bar, will Government be pleased to take steps towards the erection of a screw-pile pier?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The accounts furnished to Government do not show the receipts and expenses of individual ports, but only of groups of ports.

(*b*) A pier has been applied for, but the application was negatived on account of the expense involved.

(*c*) The Government has given its constant attention to the requirements of the port, and these have been supplied so far as funds admitted. No definite promise to erect a screw-pile pier can be given.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

588 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the communications published in the *Madras Standard*, dated 22nd March 1897 and 21st April 1897, by a second-grade pleader over his own signature complaining against the conduct of the Sub-Magistrate of Ottappidáram (Tinnevelly district) in calendar cases 16 of 1897 and 255 of 1896 on the file of the latter, and to the affidavit before the Joint Magistrate of Tuticorin by two pleaders published in the above paper of the earlier date?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made by the district authorities into the above complaint against the Sub-Magistrate, and, if so, with what result?

(*c*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the judgment of the Joint Magistrate of Tuticorin, published in the *Madras Standard* of the 1st instant (1st November 1897) on appeal from the conviction and sentence of the same Sub-Magistrate at Ottappidáram in calendar case 184 of 1897, and to the concluding portion of the above judgment of the Joint Magistrate, viz., "The Sub-Magistrate seems to have formed his conclusion before the case was finished and to have written an one-sided judgment"?

(*d*) Whether Government will be pleased to call for a report from the District Magistrate as to the fitness of the Sub-Magistrate in question to exercise magisterial functions?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the communications referred to, and the matter has formed the subject of an enquiry by the District Magistrate, who has passed such orders as seemed necessary.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government has perused the extract from the Joint Magistrate's judgment and thinks the matter may be left to the District Magistrate who will no doubt take such action as is necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

589 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether Government will be pleased to give any information regarding the election of a Chairman by the Municipal Council of Tanjore made in the beginning of the current year, and when the final order of Government on the matter may be expected?

(*b*) Whether any objection petition was presented to the Collector of Tanjore under rule 8 regarding the election referred to in clause (*a*) above.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) Orders approving the election have already been issued.

(*b*) No objection petition has, so far as the Government is aware, been presented to the Collector of Tanjore. The Hon'ble Member is reminded that under section 14 of the District Municipalities Act, the appointment of an elected Chairman is subject to the approval of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

590 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether Government is in possession of any information regarding the contemplated removal of the dispensary at Kodimudy to Perundurai by the District Board of Coimbatore and, if so, whether it will place the papers on the table?

(*b*) Whether before passing final orders on the matter, Government will be pleased to consult the wishes of the inhabitants of Kodimudy?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) No proposal on the subject has been received from the District Board. A petition protesting against the alleged removal of the dispensary from Kodimudy was received by Government in September last and was transferred to the Erode Taluk Board.

(*b*) Until the subject comes officially before it, Government is unable to state what steps it will take; but the matter will receive full consideration before orders are passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

591 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the Madras Hackney Carriages Act is in force in the municipal towns of Tinnevelly, Coimbatore, Calicut, Cuddalore, Madura and Mangalore?

(*b*) If not whether Government will be pleased to extend the Act to the above towns, and also to the towns of Tanjore and Kumbakónam ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) No, not in all the towns mentioned.

(*b*) The Government is quite ready to consider any proposals on the subject which the municipalities concerned may see fit to make.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

592 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a paragraph headed "Arrest after acquittal" extracted from *Kerala Sanchari* by the *Hindu*, dated 2nd October 1897, and whether as stated therein a prisoner who was tried and acquitted by the Sessions Court of Calicut was immediately arrested by the Police, in obedience to a circular of the District Superintendent of Police ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that such a circular has been issued, whether Government will be pleased to call for a copy of it and lay it on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has seen the paragraph.

(*b*) The Government has no information regarding the circular alleged to have been issued, and does not propose to call for any.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

593 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that the fast mail train leaving Negapatam at 6-40 P.M., and which has been intended as a connection with the fast mail train to Madras from Tuticorin for the benefit of through passengers from Negapatam to Madras, goes all the way to Tanjore to catch the latter instead of to Máyavaram direct by the shorter route of the Máyavaram-Muttupet line, and that a loss of time and money is entailed on the travelling public who have under the present arrangements to travel an extra distance of $52\frac{3}{4}$ miles ?

(*b*) Is Government aware that under the present arrangements the Máyavaram-Muttupet line, which is the property of the Tanjore District Board, is losing a considerable revenue under passenger traffic ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to issue the necessary instructions in view to the shorter route over the Máyavaram-Muttupet line being adopted for the 6-40 P.M. fast mail train from Negapatam to Madras, thereby directing a reversion to the time-table which was in force at the commencement of the opening of the above line ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The question of the better connection of Negapatam with the improved fast mail service between Madras and Southern India, on the South Indian Railway shall receive attention at the hands of the Railway Department of Government. The Honourable Member is recommended to refer those interested in his question to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Madras.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

594 & 595 *Questions.*—**594** [XXVII].—Will the Government be pleased to state, if it is true that the Government has sanctioned the recognition of "Uriya" as a language of the Courts in the district of Vizagapatam and if so, when and under what circumstances ?

595 [XXVIII].—Will the Government be pleased to state, if it is a fact that it has sanctioned the recognition of two vernaculars in certain districts, such as Telugu and Canarese in Bellary, Tamil and Canarese in Coimbatore, Telugu and Uriya in Vizagapatam, &c., and if so, on what considerations ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

594 } *Answer.*—No notification or order on these subjects has been traced.
595 }

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

596 [XXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if there are any special reasons for not treating Hindustani on the same principle and recognising it as the second vernacular in districts like Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Kistna, Kurnool, Nellore, &c., where the percentage of Muhammadan population is much higher as compared with that of Uriya-speaking people in Vizagapatam ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—No formal recognition of Hindustani as an official language appears to be necessary.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

597 [XXX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state if its attention has ever been drawn to the fact that an extra pressure is brought to bear on the Hindustani-speaking people entering the Provincial Civil Service as Deputy Collectors by their having to pass in two vernaculars, while all other native communities have to pass in one vernacular in addition to their own language ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The attention of Government has not been drawn to the fact mentioned by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

598 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Vizagapatam district the mokhasa right of the Mokhasadar of Buredakancharam village, Chipurupalle taluk, was resumed by Government under the impression that the original grant by the Nabob of Chicacole under the orders of the Nizam of Hyderabad was a religious endowment in trust for the Asar-e-Sharif darga at Chicacole, although the grant is said to be one of absolute estate to the original donee ?

(*b*) Even conceding that the grant was a religious endowment, will the Government be pleased to state under what circumstances it decided to resume the grant considering that, in its reply to my question No. XXVIII * at the Council meeting held on the 9th February 1897, Government was pleased to declare that it was not its intention to resume such endowments or grants in future ?

* 464 *supra*, p. 167.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) A petition on the subject has been presented lately and the matter is under inquiry.

(*b*) In the answer given to question No. XXVIII † put at the meeting of the Council held on 9th February 1897, the Government did not state that it would never resume such inams in future.

† 464 *supra*, p. 167.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

599 [XXXII] *Question.*—With reference to the reply to my question ‡ at the Council meeting held on the 9th April 1897, will the Government be pleased to state if it has obtained the necessary information regarding the mosque in the Vellore Fort being used as a store-room and whether the Government will now be pleased to hand it over to the community for its legitimate purpose ?

‡ 540 *supra*, p. 197.

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—The mosque has been used for secular purposes for some 70 or 80 years, and it is considered unnecessary to make any change.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

600 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Now that Mr. Rees has been appointed Resident in Travancore, will the Government be pleased to state if he is allowed to retain the appointment of Persian and Hindustani Translator to the Madras Government, and if so, under what circumstances?

(*b*) If it is, however, the intention of Government to make other arrangements for the appointment, will it be pleased to state, with reference to its reply to my question * on the subject at the meeting of the 9th April 1897, what steps it contemplates taking with a view to fill the same by a qualified Muhammadan according to the principle and precedent followed in respect of other Translatorships?

* 541 *supra*, p. 198.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no immediate intention of removing Mr. Rees from the appointment of Persian and Hindustani Translator to Government.

(*b*) The principle on which the translatorships to Government should be filled up is still engaging the attention of the Government.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

601 [XXXIV] *Question.*—With reference to the answer given by the Government to my question † at the meeting of the 9th April last, will the Government, considering that Malabar has a very large Muhammadan population, be pleased to nominate a few qualified Muhammadan officials to gazetted appointments, as Deputy Collectors, District Munsifs and the like in that district?

† 582 *supra*, p. 195.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question XX ‡ at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 9th April 1897.

‡ *ibid.*

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

602 [XXXV] *Question.*—Is it true that, in the Chingleput district, second-class Magistrates are debarred from trying cases under Breach of Contract Act 13 of 1859? Considering that the first-class Magistrates' courts are far away, will the Government be pleased to state whether it still thinks that such restriction is necessary for this district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

603 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Considering that the ryots have suffered greatly from the effects of famine and consequent high prices, which may continue or become higher if the north-east monsoon fails, will the Government be pleased to extend the scope of State loans to them to a larger extent and provide means to enable them to obtain such loans more easily than at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—This Government cannot extend the scope of State loans, etc., without the consent of the Government of India. It has already expended in loans nearly 16 lakhs of rupees, and, having regard to the present state of the finances, is not prepared to ask the Government of India to provide more money for the purpose.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

604 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Has the Government noticed the article regarding the Registration department published in the *Muhammadan Advocate of India* of July 1897 under the heading "Mussalmans in the Public service," according to which

article the 23 appointments in the Registrar's grade are exclusively filled by non-Mussalmans and of the 392 Sub-Registrars divided in seven grades there are only 36 Muhammadans all in lower grades? Will the Government be pleased to institute inquiries as to the representation of the Muhammadan element in the higher grades of the department?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has not seen the article referred to. It does not appear that Muhammadans in the Registration department are at any disadvantage as regards their prospects of promotion when compared with other officers, and the Government sees no reason to institute the inquiries proposed by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

605 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In reference to the rules recently issued by the authorities of the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, under which the natives of this Presidency as well as those of Bengal and Bombay are excluded from competing for the guaranteed appointments, will the Government be pleased to state whether it was previously consulted on the subject and its opinion taken?

(*b*) If the Government is aware of the circumstances under which these rules were made, would it state them and place the papers on the table?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take such steps as it deems necessary to have these rules modified so as to remove the new disability placed on the natives of this Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is not aware of the issue of any such rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

606 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) When the post of the Local Board Engineer in the district of Cuddapah was vacant a few months ago, is it a fact that, among the names of the candidates forwarded to the Government, there was one of a Native Indian, who was an Assistant Local Board Engineer on Rs. 300 a month? Is it a fact that the qualifications of this candidate had been testified to as high by several Collectors and officers of the Public Works Department, and that Mr. Stuart, I.C.S., has said of this officer that he would "altogether recommend him with confidence for the post of District Board Engineer"? Is it a fact that, on an examination of the claims and merits of the several candidates for the Cuddapah post, this candidate was found to be the best and that he was appointed to it, or that the Government suggested his nomination by the President? Is it a fact that, after correspondence with the President of the Cuddapah District Board, that another candidate, an unpassed European, and a Local Board Assistant Engineer on Rs. 175 a month, with only four or five years' service, was finally appointed to the post?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the Native Assistant Local Board Engineer's claims were superseded and to place the correspondence on the table?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—The appointment of a person to the post of Local Fund Engineer vests, under the law, in the President of the District Board, subject to the sanction of the Governor in Council. The candidate recommended by the President of the District Board in this case being already an Assistant Local Fund Engineer and of approved service, there was no objection either technical or of principle, to his appointment, which was accordingly sanctioned by Government. The Government is not prepared to place on the Council's table any correspondence that may have passed on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

607 [XL] *Question.*—Before sanctioning the appointment of the Local Board Engineer recently made in the Anantapur district, will the Government be pleased, having regard to the qualifications and claims of the officer nominated by the President, to direct the President to invite applications from passed Indian candidates and to select the best of them to the post in accordance with the policy enunciated by the Government in G.O., No. 86 L., dated 16th January 1897 ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—No nomination has yet been received from the President of the District Board. When it is received, the subject will be duly considered by Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

608 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remarks of the Head Assistant Magistrate, Tanjore, in the Negapatam Salt office burglary case that material evidence was concocted by the prosecution which was conducted by the department ? What notice has the Government taken of the matter in the light of the Magistrate's judgment ?

(*b*) Is the Government in full possession of the circumstances connected with the loss of Rs. 5,000 in the Negapatam Salt Inspector's office, and will it be pleased to place on the table the departmental and police reports, if any, on the subject ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

609 [XLII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. are exporting salt from Madras in pursuance of an arrangement with the Government ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state under what circumstances and on what conditions they have been allowed to obtain salt from the Government, and to place on the table copies of the agreement and the connected papers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the Hon'ble Member's question is in the affirmative. With reference to the second part of the question a copy of G.O., No. 3690, dated 17th July 1897, which explains the circumstances and the conditions on which the concession was granted, will be made available for the Hon'ble Member's inspection at the Government office.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

610 [XLIII] *Question.*—Has the Government invited opinions on Mr. Nicholson's reports on the introduction of Agricultural Banks, and if any have been received, will it be pleased to place the papers on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

611 [XLIV] *Question.*—Is the Government aware of the conditions on which Mr. Turner, late of the Indian Civil Service and some time Collector and Agent of Vizagapatam, has obtained certain concessions in respect of manganese in the zamindari of Vizianagram ? How long after he retired from service did he obtain the concessions ? Are there tracts in the zamindari containing manganese to which the concessions to Mr. Turner do not extend ? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of directing the Collector of Vizianagram Zamindari to take steps that no applications for further concessions by retired Government officials are granted during the minority of the present zamindar except with the previous sanction of the Government ? If the Government has no information on the subject, will it be pleased to call for it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject, and in the absence of any reason to believe that improper concessions with regard to mining for manganese in the Vizianagram Zamindari have been granted to officials who have retired from its service, sees no reason to issue the directions or call for the information which the Hon'ble Member suggests.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

612 [XLV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence relating to the appointment of Mr. Willock, I.C.S., as Collector of the Vizianagram Zamindari under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider that it would conduce to the public advantage to place the papers in question on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

613 [XLVI] *Question.*—Is the Government in possession of any scheme, which it has approved, to work up the iron resources of Salem, and if so, will it be pleased to place it on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has not *approved* of any scheme for working the iron ores of Salem. The question of feasibility of working the ores at a profit is still under investigation.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

614 [XLVII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed on the report of Mr. F. A. Nicholson, I.C.S., submitted to Government in 1895 regarding the possibility of introducing Land and Agricultural Banks into this Presidency and what steps have been taken to give effect to his recommendations ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member will be referred to the reply given to the question * on the same subject asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar.

* 610 *supra*, p. 220.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

615 [XLVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the answer † of Government given at the meeting of the Council held on the 9th December 1896 in connection with the listed appointments declared open to the Provincial Service, will Government be pleased to state whether the claims of the Members of the Indian Civil Service have been satisfied with regard to one of the Under Secretaryships to Government ? If so, when ?

† 413 *supra*, p. 149.

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the instructions of the Government of India on the subject of filling up the listed appointments ?

(4) The whole delta is, properly speaking, alluvial, *i.e.*, formed by river deposits. The depth of the surface soil, as distinguished from the sub-soil, varies from a few inches to several feet.

(*b*) The scheme report is still under the consideration of the Government The Government at present sees no reason to order further inquiries to be made in connection therewith.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

* 419 *supra*, p. 161.

622 [LV] *Question.*—With reference to question No. XLVI * asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 9th December 1896, whether the price of paddy entered in the price returns represents the price of the new or old paddy and the answer thereto that the matter was under inquiry, will Government be pleased to state the result of the inquiry and place on the table the papers relating thereto?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A report on the subject has been received and is now under the consideration of Government. The papers cannot be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 171 *supra*, p. 68.

623 [LVI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the following question and answer † at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd January 1895—

Question.—"Is it a fact that when the water-rate was enhanced in 1865 there was an understanding that the rate then fixed would not be increased during the currency of the settlement?"

Answer.—"The Government is not aware of any such understanding":

is it a fact that this Government was pleased to report to the Government of India in 1891 as follows :—

"As regards the water-rates in the two northern districts of Kistna and Gódávari, I am to observe . . . . that, *as no alteration can be made* in them during the currency of the present settlements, the question will be considered at the *next revision of settlement* . . . ." (*vide* Mr. Walch's Engineering Works of the Gódávari Delta, vol. I, page 109).

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to place on the table G.O., No. 51, Revenue, dated 26th January 1891, setting forth the understanding of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is true the opinion quoted by Mr. Walch was stated in 1891, but it was questioned afterwards and was found to be erroneous. It does not follow that, because this opinion was expressed in 1891, there was an understanding to the same effect in 1865.

(*b*) G.O., No. 51, dated 26th January 1891, cannot be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

624 [LVII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to obtain and lay on the table a statement showing—

(1) the number of appeals preferred from the Kistna district to the Board of Revenue against the imposition of penal water-rate for fasli 1305;

(2) the number of appeals in which the orders of the local authorities were set aside;

(3) the grounds on which the said reversals were based?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is aware of no useful purpose that would be served by compiling such statistics and accordingly sees no reason to order their preparation.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

625 [LVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the practice since the construction of the Sangam anicut in 1884 that 1,200 cubic feet of water per second should be let down the Sangam anicut through the undersluices for the irrigation of the Nellore delta before any is taken for the Sangam delta; if not, how is the distribution of water to the Sangam and Nellore deltas regulated?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the result of the inquiries instituted with reference to questions Nos. LVII and LVIII * asked at the meeting of the Council held on 9th February 1897 and place on the table the papers relating thereto?

* 493 and 494 *supra*, pp. 177, 178.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The present practice is, first, to pass 100 cubic feet per second down the Duvur branch channel, then to pass 1,200 cubic feet per second down to the Pennar anicut and to take any surplus to the Kanigiri reservoir.

(*b*) As a result of the inquiries instituted with reference to questions Nos. LVII and LVIII * asked at the meeting of the Council held on 9th February 1897, it has been ascertained that the Sangam anicut undersluices were closed from the 3rd to 11th December 1896 by the order of the Executive Engineer and were opened at the request of the Sub-divisional officer in charge of the Nellore system. The Survapalli tank was the only tank under the Nellore system not full at the time of closing the undersluices and this was then half full and was filled up in January. The Superintending Engineer reported in March that there would be no loss of crop in the Nellore system. Twenty-four acres are reported to have failed under the Allur tank for want of water. The Government is unable to place any papers on the table.

* *Ibid.*

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The reply to both portions of this question is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

616 [XLIX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether it has come to any decision with regard to the appointment of District Judges, and what steps it proposes to adopt to place this branch of the judicial service on a more efficient and satisfactory footing (*vide* questions No. XX * of the Council meeting of the 20th November 1894 and No. X † of the meeting of the 4th November 1895)?

* 123 *supra*, p. 46.
† 253 *supra*, p. 98.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The matter is still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

617 [L] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state why the four places of Subordinate Judges vacated by Messrs. E. K. Kristnan (June 1896), M. B. Sundara Rao (November 1896), N. Swaminadha Aiyar (latter part of 1896), and C. V. Gopala Nayar (January 1897) have not yet been permanently filled up?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The appointments cannot be permanently filled until a decision is arrived at on the matter referred to in question No. XLIX.‡

‡ 616 *supra*.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

§ 223 *supra*, p. 88.

618 [LI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer § of Government given at the meeting of the Council held on the 8th April 1895 that it was not aware of any special reason for the difference in the length of the recess enjoyed by the District Munsifs and the District and Subordinate Judges, will Government be pleased to ascertain from the High Court if there is any such reason for making the difference?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

‖ 575 *supra*, p. 209.

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply to the question No. VIII ‖ put by the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

619 [LII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that there is no latrine accommodation provided at important stations on the Madras Railway for first and second class non-European passengers, while there is such accommodation for European gentlemen and ladies and also for third-class passengers under the designation of "men" and "women"?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to draw the attention of the Madras Railway authorities to the necessity for providing such accommodation for the above class of passengers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is a fact that there is no special latrine accommodation for first and second class non-European passengers.

(*b*) This question may more appropriately be addressed to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Madras, who will doubtless give full consideration to any practical suggestions which may be referred to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

620 [LIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the rule recently issued by the Board of Revenue prohibiting Taluk Treasury officers from receiving Government taxes on lands not situated in the taluk, and from realizing Government dues from owners of land temporarily or permanently absent

from the taluk by sending out processes to the Tahsildar within whose jurisdiction the said owners reside, though in the case of abkári and other sources of revenue they are allowed to realize the same, by issuing processes to places outside their jurisdiction?

(*b*) Whether Government is aware that in consequence of the said rule and the stringent measures recently adopted by Revenue officers for the realization of Government revenue, owners of land, including Government officials, temporarily or permanently residing outside the taluk wherein their lands are situated, are in some cases ignorant of the processes issued by Government officers and that much insecurity and inconvenience is caused thereby?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to order an enquiry into the matter and issue orders that before land is sold for arrears of revenue, notice should, as a general rule, be issued to be served personally on the defaulter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of the Hon'ble Member's question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) With reference to the second portion of the question, Government considers that inconvenience, if any, which may be caused to owners of land, cannot at present be remedied without leaving room for confusion in the accounts and fraud.

(*c*) With reference to the concluding portion of the question, the Government does not consider that any useful purpose will be served by making the suggested enquiry and is not prepared to issue the order suggested which is not contemplated by the law which has been in force for more than thirty years.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

621 [LIV] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to question No. LII * asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 8th April 1896, and the Deputy Commissioner's scheme report No. 571-A, dated 8th November 1895, will Government be pleased to state—

* 365 *supra*, p. 138.

(1) whether it is a fact that lands never brought under irrigation—dwelling sites, waste lands under occupation, garden lands, &c.—have been classed as alluvial, and if so, what the extent of such land is?

(2) whether it is a fact that almost the whole area in the deltaic taluks which in the previous settlement was found on careful examination to belong to classes falling under the regar series is now classed under alluvial and exceptional classes?

(3) whether any experiments have been made regarding the quantity of alluvium, if any, carried down annually by feeding channels to fields in the Gódávari delta, and if so, with what result?

(4) what is the maximum and minimum depth to which generally the surface of the soil is now found to be alluvial?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to order inquiry in connection with the above matters before the scheme report is considered and final orders are passed thereupon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) (1) Dwelling sites if within the gramanattam (village-site) have not been classified with a view to assessment. Many waste lands under occupation and garden lands have been classed as alluvial. The extent of such lands is not known.

(2) It is a fact that not so much as 70 per cent. of the area classed as regar at the previous settlement has now been classed as alluvial.

(3) No such experiments have been made. The Government is aware of no way in which reliable experiments could be made.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—(*a*) and (*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 1132 Judicial, dated 11th May 1894, which has been placed at the disposal of the press. The Government has no further information in the matter and it does not propose to call for any at present.

(*c*) Government will be prepared to consider the extension of the provisions of Section 9 of the Act to any Municipality on receipt of a recommendation to that effect from the local officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

631 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there any organized system in force in the rural parts under the jurisdiction of the District and Taluk Boards and unions for combating cholera, and will Government be pleased to place on the table papers relating thereto?

(*b*) If there is no organized system, will Government be pleased to lay down definite regulations more or less on the lines of those sanctioned for Municipalities in G.O., No. 1536 M., dated 9th September 1896, for the guidance of the Local Boards?

(*c*) What is the total number of attacks and deaths from cholera in rural areas other than Municipalities in the Presidency during 1896-97 and what is the total number in the Municipalities during the same period?

(*d*) What are the total amounts spent on account of the epidemic in the rural parts and Municipalities, respectively, in 1896-97?

(*e*) Considering that the total number of deaths from cholera in the rural parts of the district of Tanjore (non-municipal areas) during 1896-97 was 7,792 against 645 in the previous year and that the total amount spent on account of the epidemic was only Rs. 1,083, will Government be pleased to invite the attention of the Local Boards in the above district to the necessity of making larger outlays on preventive and remedial measures?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to urge upon the District and Taluk Boards the necessity of employing one certificated sanitary inspector at least for each of the revenue taluks under their jurisdiction to superintend general sanitation and the preventive and remedial measures on occasions of epidemics in villages?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the instructions issued in G.O., No. 277 L., dated 7th February 1887, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) The Government considers that the regulations referred to are too elaborate to be made applicable at present to rural areas.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the monthly returns of vital statistics published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, as regards the number of deaths from cholera. Information regarding the number of attacks is not available.

(*d*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Local Fund and Municipal Administration Reports which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*e*) The outlay of Rs. 1,083 referred to by the Hon'ble Member was on remedial measures only, and was very much in excess of the figure for the previous year, namely, Rs. 457. The Government is not prepared to invite the attention of the Local Boards as desired, as it is a matter which may generally be left to their discretion.

(*f*) The Government is not prepared to do this at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

632 [VII] *Question.*—In view of the circumstance that the want of a telegraph office at Manjéri (Malabar) must have been greatly felt on the occasion of the late Mapilla disturbance and escape of prisoners from the sub-jail, will Government be pleased to take steps to establish a telegraph office at the above station?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—A report on the subject from the Collector will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

633 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the fact that compulsory vaccination, which is in force in all the Municipalities except Chingleput and Tiruvannámalai, is working satisfactorily, will Government be pleased to direct the introduction of the system in these two Municipalities also?

(*b*) In view of the circumstance that there were 12,218 deaths from small-pox in the Presidency during 1896-97 against 6,440 in the preceding year, will Government be pleased to declare, under section 106 of Act V of 1884, that vaccination shall be compulsory in all the Local Fund unions (major and minor)?

(*c*) Have any orders been issued by Government that heads of villages should maintain separate lists of children under ten who have not been vaccinated. If not, will Government be pleased to issue the necessary orders in view to facilitating the work of the vaccinators?

(*d*) Has Surgeon-Major W. B. Bannerman, M.D., submitted any scheme to Government for the employment of two Assistant Inspectors of Vaccination of the Assistant Surgeon's grade for supervising the work of the Deputy Inspectors, and has Government passed any final orders?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*) Vaccination is now compulsory in both the Chingleput and Tiruvannámalai Municipalities.

(*b*) Under section 106 of Act V of 1884, quoted by the Hon'ble Member, vaccination cannot be made compulsory in portions of a district.

(*c*) Yes. Orders were issued by Government in September 1896 requiring village officers to maintain in connection with the birth registers a list of unvaccinated children. The manner in which these orders may best be carried out is still under the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

(*d*) The scheme referred to has not been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

634 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there any proposal before Government by the President of the Taluk Board of Ramnad, or the District Board of Madura, to reduce Paramagudi from an apothecary's station to an hospital assistant's?

(*b*) Will Government, before passing orders, be pleased to take into consideration the fact that Paramagudi is an important place with a population of about 10,000 on the high road to Rámésvaram visited by thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India, that it is on the proposed Madura-Pamban Railway line, that it is a District Munsif's court station, that it has been in charge of an apothecary for a long time, that its hospital has wards for in-patients, and that there is no other hospital within a radius of 25 miles?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss:—

Answer.—(*a*) A proposal by the Taluk Board of Ramnad to convert the Paramagudi hospital into a dispensary has been received by Government.

(*b*) The matter will receive due consideration before orders are passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

635 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the President of the District Board of Anantapur has appointed Mr. Russell, a European, as the Local Fund Engineer, and has the appointment been sanctioned by Government?

22. MEETING OF THE 1st FEBRUARY 1898.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* 577 *supra*, p. 209.

626 [I] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. X * asked at the meeting of the Council on the 23rd November 1897 and Revenue demi-official No. 9, dated 13th February 1895, referred to in the reply, will Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points :—

(*a*) Whether there were 215,463 pattahs or individual holdings in the district of Tanjore in fasli 1303 (1893–94), the year in which the new settlement rates were introduced ?

(*b*) In how many of the above pattahs, the increase over the old assessment, without reference to increment remissions, was between

1	and	10 per cent.	40	and	50 per cent.
10	,,	15 ,,	50	,,	75 ,,
15	,,	20 ,,	75	,,	100 ,,
20	,,	25 ,,	100	,,	200 ,,
25	,,	30 ,,	200	,,	300 ,,
30	,,	40 ,,	300	,,	400 ,,

(*c*) If the above statistics can only be compiled at considerable cost in time and labour, will Government be pleased to furnish the information in such shape as may be found convenient, in view to showing the relative operation of the new settlement rates in Tanjore upon individual holdings ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—It is true that 215,463 pattahs, single and joint, were issued at the recent revenue settlement of Tanjore. The increase over the old assessment exceeded 25 per cent in 42,890 cases, *i.e.*, in only about one-fifth of the total number of pattahs. At the settlement the number of changes that had taken place in the reputed holdings was found to be very great and pattahs for 215,463 holdings had to be issued in place of the 179,078 pattahs which previously existed. The new survey fields were demarcated without reference to the old paimash fields and to locate these and to ascertain the exact demand upon them under the old settlement in the case of every individual holding would entail an expenditure of time, labour and expense which would be utterly out of proportion to the resulting information and which the Government sees no reason to undertake.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

† 582 *supra*, p. 212.

627 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. XV (*b*) † at the last meeting and the reply thereto, will the Government be pleased to state whether there are several sailing vessels of the name of *Mahomed Samudhani* registered at the ports of Negapatam and Pámban and whether barque *Mahomed Samudhani* registered at Negapatam as No. 6 of 1895 on 22nd September 1895 (built at Coringa in 1876—burden 294·20 tons) is still in existence ?

(*b*) Whether the above named barque which sailed from the port of Negapatam for the Nicobars on 22nd July 1896 with cargo and crew has not been heard of since, and whether any information is available regarding the fate of the vessel and her crew ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—Eight sailing vessels named *Mahomed Samudhani* were registered at the ports of Negapatam and Pámban between 1885 and 1892. On further inquiry being made it has been found that a barque of that name of 294·20 tons left Negapatam for the Nicobars on the 22nd July 1896 and has not been heard of since, although various attempts have been made to trace her whereabouts. There is no information available regarding the fate of the vessel or her crew.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

628 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Head Assistant Magistrate of Anantapur, Mr. Macmichael, in discharging the accused in a case of alleged bribery has characterized in the judgment the evidence of Deputy Collector Mr. D. Venkata Sastry, 5th prosecution witness, as "perjured," and that the witness cannot be regarded either as "truthful or scrupulous" ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to call upon the District Magistrate to obtain an explanation from the Deputy Collector in question on the strictures passed against the latter by the Head Assistant Magistrate in his judgment, and to forward it with the opinion of the District Magistrate, in view to Government taking such notice as may appear necessary ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has received no official information in the matter. A report will be called for from the District Magistrate.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

629 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government in possession of any information regarding the extent to which bones and bone-manure are being used for agricultural purposes in this Presidency, and the quantities which have been exported to other countries from the ports of this Presidency during the past five years, and will it be pleased to place at the disposal of the press such information as may be available ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take steps to acquaint the agriculturists with the value of bones as manure and to minimise the export of the article by introducing an export duty ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer —Government has no information as to the extent to which bones and bone-manure are used for agricultural purposes in this Presidency. It is known, however, that such manure is largely used in the planting districts. According to the returns, nearly 16,000 tons have been exported by sea from the Presidency during the last five years.

Information regarding bones as manure will be found in the series of "Agricultural Ledgers" published by the Government of India, Nos. 8 and 15 of 1897, copies of which may be had on application. The value of this and other manures is one of the subjects which the Agricultural Department brings to the notice of the people. This Government as at present advised is not prepared to support a proposal for the imposition of an export duty on bones.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

630 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government in possession of any information regarding the successful working or otherwise of benches of village courts under section 9 of Madras Act I of 1889 in the ten districts in which the benches have been constituted in 1896, and if so, will it be pleased to lay the papers on the table ?

(*b*) If Government is not in possession of any information on the matter, will it be pleased to call for a report from the authorities of the districts in which the benches have been in operation ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to issue orders under section 9 of the Act for the constitution of such benches in all the municipal towns in the Presidency ?

(*b*) Has Government issued any instructions to the Presidents of District Boards suggesting the desirability of giving preference to graduates of the local Civil Engineering College in making appointments to the post of Local Fund Engineer ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The nomination has been received, but the Government has as yet passed no orders thereon.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 86 L., dated 16th January 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

636 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Mr. Castlestuart Stuart, President of the District Board of South Arcot, in the administration report for the past year, made the following observations in regard to education ? :—

"The Assistant Inspector of Schools states that the condition of education during the year may be considered as stationary. Personally I do not agree with him. There are, in my opinion, far too many incompetent teachers, whose personal interests rather than the interests of the children to be taught appear to me to be too often the object of solicitude on the part of the supervising educational officers, who would prove themselves much more useful to the Boards if they took a livelier interest in bringing to notice, with a view to weeding out, such of the Board's schoolmasters as are practically worthless. By the maintenance of the two sessional schools, the number of certificated teachers is increasing every year ; but even they are, in my opinion, often really incompetent."

(*b*) Whether any, and what, steps have been taken by Government to remedy the state of things set forth above ?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) With reference to the second part, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the concluding portion of clause (2) of paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 1972 L., dated 12th October 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

637 [XII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct, in future, the preparation of separate lists of jurors as distinguished from assessors, instead of one list of jurors and assessors for a district as at present, and also prescribe adequate property and educational qualifications for service as jurors in mufassal Sessions Courts, in view to the proper discharge of the far higher responsibilities devolving on juries in the trial of cases triable by them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The law places upon the Sessions Judge and the Collector the responsibility of preparing the list of jurors and assessors and of fixing the qualifications necessary in their judgment. The Government cannot therefore issue directions as suggested by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

638 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of land revenue dry remission granted in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool owing to failure of the crops during the late famine ?

(*b*) Has a similar concession been granted, and, if so, to what extent, in the affected taluks of the Cuddapah district ? If not, will the Government be pleased to consider and decide the question at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) From information obtained from the Board of Revenue, it appears that Rs. 6,84,547 and Rs. 3,03,985 were remitted in the Bellary and Kurnool districts, respectively, during the past revenue year (fasli 1306) out of a total demand on "dry" land of Rs. 11·77 and 11·50 lakhs respectively. The exact amount of "dry" remissions in the Anantapur district has not yet been reported, but the Board states that the remissions, both "wet" and "dry", amounted approximately to Rs. 5·63 lakhs out of a total demand of 11·43 lakhs.

(*b*) Proposals for remissions on "dry" land in Cuddapah recently received from the Collector are now under examination and will be disposed of shortly.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

639 [XIV] *Question.*—Have any petitions and telegrams been submitted to the Government or the Board of Revenue by ryots in the Ongole taluk, Nellore district, bringing to notice the failure of crops, and the consequent hardships they are suffering, and praying for a postponement of revenue collections ? Will the Government be pleased to consider the prayers favourably and pass orders, if it has not already done so ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Telegrams and petitions from the ryots of certain villages in the Ongole taluk have been received by the Government and the Board of Revenue. The petitioners have been informed that they should apply in the first instance to the Collector. The Commissioner of Revenue Settlement is on tour in the Nellore district.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

640 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the project called "Annanji Project," a scheme for feeding some of the tanks in the Ongole taluk, Nellore district, with the water of the the Gundlakamma river ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the execution and completion of the project as a famine work, as it will render substantial help to the ryots in those tracts during adverse seasons ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In August 1897 the Executive Engineer, Nellore division, reported that the levels that have been taken and the reports made show that there is no likelihood of the Annanji project being found worth carrying out even as a famine relief work. No definite decision, however, can be arrived at with regard to the project until detailed investigations have been made. This will be done in due course by the Special Executive Engineer who has recently been appointed to investigate schemes for the extension of irrigation in the Nellore district, and who is at present engaged on the investigation of another scheme known as the Gandipalem tank project. Pending such investigation, it cannot be said whether the project would render substantial help to the ryots during adverse seasons.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

641 [XVI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to adopt early measures to appoint non-official Vice-Presidents of District and Taluk Boards in all districts where competent men are available for the office ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to a similar* question* asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Subba Rao at the meeting of the Council held on the 12th December 1893.

* 38 *supra*, p. 16.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

642 [XVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of placing Stationary Sub-Magistrates under the control of the High Court in the matter of selection, nomination and punishment, and state the objections, if any, for the adoption of such a course?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—The arrangement would involve a modification of the Criminal Procedure Code and the matter is therefore not under the control of the Governor in Council. The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to rule 6 of the rules made in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

643 [XVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to appoint Stationary Sub-Magistrates for all taluks of the Presidency instead of having underpaid Sarishtadar-Magistrates in certain places, so as to effect a complete separation of judicial from executive functions, in at least the subordinate ranks of the magistracy?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—Stationary Sub-Magistrates have been appointed in all those taluks in which their services are deemed to be necessary. The Government is not prepared to appoint such officers to the remaining taluks and does not consider the Sarishtadar-Magistrates underpaid.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

644 [XIX] *Question.*—With reference to the notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th May 1897, that a competitive examination would be held in Madras in September last "for the selection of one candidate (who may be either a European, Eurasian, or Native) for appointment as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police," will the Government be pleased to state (*a*) how many candidates applied for admission for such examination, (*b*) how many of these candidates were found qualified under the rules, (*c*) what were the circumstances under which the proposed examination was abandoned, (*d*) whether it will place on the table its report to the Government of India stating why no such examination was held, (*e*) whether it is a fact that this Government was opposed to recruitment to the superior grades of the Madras Police by election of European or Indian candidates upon the results of a competitive examination in Madras, (*f*) and if so, whether it will place on the table the correspondence on the subject with the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Six.

(*b*) None were found fit for admission to the examination.

(*c*) The examination was abandoned because there were no suitable candidates.

(*d*) (*e*) & (*f*) The papers and the correspondence with the Government of India containing the views of this Government cannot be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

645 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) In reference to the appointment of Municipal Secretaries and to the assignment of powers to them by municipalities in the mufassal under the new provisions of the Madras District Municipalities Act, is the Government aware that there is considerable uneasy feeling on the part of Chairman and members in consequence of the interference of the local executive officers?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government has issued orders generally or to particular municipalities calculated to induce a belief that it would not sanction the appointment of non-officials as Secretaries?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government has, in some cases, called for delegation to the Secretary of more powers than the Chairman and the Municipal Councils had assigned?

(*d*) In view of the fact that the new provisions in the Act relating to the appointment of Municipal Secretaries were introduced by Non-official Members of the Council in order to assist and co-operate with the Chairman on account of the desire of the Government for "full-time" and paid Chairman in some cases and in view to harmony in Municipal Councils and between them and the local executive officers and to successful municipal administration, will the Government be pleased to see that Chairmen and Municipal Councils are left free in the exercise of their powers under section 39-A of the Act in the matter both of qualifications of their Secretaries and of the delegation of powers to them, at all events till such time as the Government and the Municipal Councils have gained experience from the working of these new provisions?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer to the first two parts of the question is in the negative.

(*c*) The answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The Government is not prepared to leave these matters entirely to the discretion of Municipal Councils.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

646 [XXI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that it has been proposed to the Government to reduce the proportion of the elected municipal councillors in the Ootacamund Municipal Council? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the proposal has been made? Before considering the proposal, will the Government be pleased to ascertain the views and wishes of the rate-payers and voters of the said Municipality?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to Notification No. 899 published at page 1593 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, extraordinary, dated 18th December 1897, by which the proportion of elective seats on the Ootacamund Municipal Council has been reduced after consulting the Municipal Council according to law. The Municipal Council unanimously accepted the proposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

647 [XXII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether it has received any representations urging the desirability of connecting by railway (1) Sálúru, Párvatípuram and Bimlipatam with Vizianagram on the East Coast Railway, and (2) Chicacole and Kalingapatam with Chicacole road station or Amudalavalasa on the East Coast Railway, and what steps are proposed to be taken in the above matter to construct feeder lines to the East Coast Railway?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—Under the orders of the Government of India a railway Survey party is now in the field engaged upon the location of a railway from Vizianagram through Bobbili, Párvatípuram, Rayagudda, Bariguda, and Ombadola (or their neighbourhoods as near as may be) to Raipur in the Central Provinces.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to Rule 6 of the rules published in page 178, Part I, of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 14th February 1893.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

656 [XXXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received any report from the Senate of the Madras University on the by-law 152 (*d*) regarding the question of keeping terms in colleges referred to them as per G.O., No. 37, Educational, dated 19th January 1897? If so, will it place the same on the table? If not, will the Government be pleased to move the Senate to expedite the despatch of the report?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—No report has been received and the Government sees no reason to move the Senate as suggested.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

657 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether effect has been given by any of the District Boards to the order of the Government, No. 86 L., dated 10th January 1897, that Local Boards "will have their wants fully and efficiently met by employing engineers locally born and trained or locally trained"?

(*b*) In how many districts have there been vacancies since the order has been issued, and how many have been filled up? Will the Government be pleased to state how many of them have been filled up by men locally born and trained or locally trained?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) Seeing that vacancies occur very gradually, and that men already in employ must first be provided for, the question appears to be premature.

(*b*) There have been vacancies in six districts and all except one, the nomination for which is under consideration by Government, have been filled up. The Government considers it sufficient to say that in filling up these vacancies the terms of G.O., No. 86 L., dated 16th January 1897, have been borne in mind.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

658 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to the article in the *Hindu*, dated 27th August last, to the purchase of lands in Coonoor sold for arrears of revenue under the Rent Recovery Act? If not, will the Government send for the papers and state whether the Chief Inspector of Police was justified in purchasing lands in Coonoor? How long has he been at Coonoor? Is it a fact that he has been at Coonoor since 1872, with one year's break?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the article in question and will call for a report on the subject.

The Chief Inspector has been at Coonoor since 1885. Previously to that he had been for eleven years at Ootacamund with supervision over Coonoor.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

659 [XXXV] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article in the *Hindu*, dated 13th January, under the heading of "Gross misconduct of a Deputy Collector," and also to the judgment of Mr. Macmichael, the Head Assistant Magistrate of Anantapur, published in the same paper on the 15th January? If not, will the Government be pleased to send for the judgment and take such action as the Government consider fit?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply to the question No. III * put by the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai.

* 628 *supra*, p. 227.

A concession has been granted for a 2′ 6″ gauge railway from Bimlipatam to Vizianagram. What the concessionaires are going to do is not known.

Government considers that the connection of Chicacole with the East Coast Railway will be sufficiently well served for the present if the District Board will connect Chicacole with Dusi station by a new road about four miles in length along the river bank.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

648 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following resolution No. X passed at the first Vizagapatam District Conference held in May 1897 :—

"That, in view of the unsatisfactory administration of Civil Justice in the Agency tracts (in the Vizagapatam district), this conference is of opinion that two Munsifs' Courts with the pecuniary jurisdiction of a District Munsif under Act III of 1873 should be created for the Senior and Special Assistant Agent's divisions subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the Agent to the Governor, and that the Revenue officers in the said tracts should be divested of their civil jurisdiction and that persons possessing qualifications of a District Munsif in the ordinary tracts should be appointed" ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to direct an inquiry into the matter and determine how far effect might be given to the above suggestion ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The answer to both parts of the question is "No".

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

649 [XXV *] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state how far the following recommendation of the Indian Education Commission has been carried out in this Presidency :—

"That a general educational library and museum be formed at some suitable locality in each Province" ?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the annual reports on Public Instruction which give full information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 294 *supra*, p. 115.

650 [XXVI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer † of Government at the meeting of the Council held on the 26th February 1896 that the merits of the assignment system in connection with results grants were under the consideration of Government, will Government be pleased to state if it has arrived at any decision, and if so, what ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—Since the date mentioned an Educational Conference has discussed the system and made certain suggestions on which the Director has addressed Government. The matter is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

651 [XXVII] *Question.*—In view of the fact that in districts (excepting South Canara and Malabar) where the tree-tapping system is in force, rule 1, clause (*f*), of the tree-tax rules for the drawing of toddy required for domestic purposes is not availed of to any appreciable extent, as disclosed by the statement placed on the Council table at the last meeting of the Council, will Government be pleased to inquire why the benefit of the rule is not largely availed of by the people ?

* Question XXIV was withdrawn at the meeting by the Hon'ble Mr. Subba Rao Pantulu.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government will make inquiries on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

652 [XXVIII] *Question.*—With reference to the order of Government that the area to be exempted from the enhanced water-rate should not exceed 15 per cent. of the wet area in the deltaic tracts in the Gódávari and Kistna districts, will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the said limit was fixed on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue or the Collectors of the Gódávari and Kistna districts, and

(*b*) whether Government was satisfied that 85 per cent. of the wet area could bear the enhanced rate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government declines to state what recommendations were made by its subordinates on the subject.

(*b*) Yes in Gódávari. There was no order such as the Hon'ble Member refers to with regard to Kistna.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

653 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in the Kistna district, unlike in the Gódávari district exemption from the enhanced rate was made with regard to whole villages, and lands though unable to bear the enhanced rate were not exempted because whole villages wherein they are situate were not exempted ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the principle adopted for exemption in the Kistna district and whether it has met with the approval of Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes", and to the second part "No".

(*b*) The principle adopted for exemption was the same in Gódávari and Kistna. What that principle was, was stated in answer to question LIII at the meeting of the Council held on the 8th April 1896.* * 366 *supra*, p. 134.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

654 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that no land held on zamindari or inam tenure is exempted from the enhanced water-rate but that neighbouring zerayati lands of similar quality have been so exempted ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to explain its policy in according different treatment to neighbouring landholders.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member should be aware from G.O., No. 3696, dated 16th September 1896, which was communicated to him, that zamindari and inam lands were not exempted in any cases, and that the reason was that Government considered that they were on the whole more favourably circumstanced, and that the exemption which was a mere temporary expedient in the case of certain ryotwari holdings till final settlement, need not be extended to such lands.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

655 [XXXI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the Madras Government reported in 1891 to the Government of India that no alteration could be made in the water-rates in the Kistna and Gódávari districts during the currency of the present settlements, and when and why the above statement was found to be erroneous ?

23. MEETING OF THE 4TH APRIL 1898.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

660 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state on how many and on which occasions since their construction the Connemara Library and the Museum Theatre have been lighted for a public purpose, and by reason of what future programme the Government has deemed fit to make a grant of over ten thousand rupees for the purpose of a gas installation for lighting up these buildings?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—The library has been lighted once, the Museum Theatre on 45 occasions for various purposes. The installation of gas will be provided with a view to open the library at night time and so increase its sphere of usefulness and to make the lecture theatre available for evening lectures.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

661 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that prosecutions for fiscal offences have always or generally been far more numerous in this Presidency than in the Bengal and other Presidencies, whether regard be had to the population or the proportion of such prosecutions to prosecutions for offences other than fiscal?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the proportion of convictions to the total number of such prosecutions is the highest in this Presidency? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the causes that have occasioned the special state of things in this Presidency in this respect?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the administration reports of the several provinces for the figures. These reports will be made available for his use in the office. If the proportion of convictions is higher here than elsewhere, the only reason the Government can suggest is that prosecutions here are conducted with greater care and efficiency.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

662 [III] *Question.*—Is it a fact that in Calendar Case No. 489 of 1897 on the file of the Second Class Magistrate of Villupuram, in the South Arcot district, the accused were kept in custody pending trial for six months and finally acquitted? Is it a fact that the Magistrate refused to enlarge the accused on bail?

Will the Government be pleased to cause an inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the case which necessitated such an unusually long remand of the accused to prison and why bail was refused if the trial had to be protracted for any cause?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has no information, but the District Magistrate has been called upon to report whether the facts are as stated in the Hon'ble Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

663 [IV] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the District Forest officer of Kistna has recommended that grazing fees might be raised immediately to one rupee and prospectively to two rupees per head of cattle? If so, will the Government be pleased to state owing to what special circumstances in his district does that officer justify his proposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Proposals for enhancing the grazing fees have been submitted to Government; and Government has under consideration the question of raising to one rupee the rate for grazing in a few special blocks that are frequented mainly by the cattle of professional graziers or breeders and can be treated exceptionally without prejudicing the privileges of ordinary cultivators, or that produce an exceptionally rich growth of grass for which the demand exceeds the supply.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

664 [V] *Question.*—Is the Government in a position to say what measures, since the issue of G.O., No. 569, of the 13th July 1897, have been adopted by the Forest Department to give ryots the benefit of the provisions contained in paragraphs 7 and 9 as to the necessity for effecting improvements in the "grazing capabilities" of forest land, especially where the people had formerly rights of free pasture, and for making provision for goat browsing? If so, will the Government be pleased to place on the table papers showing the progress made in these respects?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government Order quoted issued no new instructions but merely recapitulated existing orders on matters of forest policy. The improvement of the grazing capabilities of forest land and the need of provision for goat browsing receive constant attention from Collectors and Forest officers. The Government has not called for any special and detailed report of the steps taken for such improvement and provision in each district and sees no reason to do so. The Government knows of no place where the people had formerly the right of free pasture.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

665 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the statement * made by the Government in the meeting of the Council in November last that the principle on which translatorship to Government should be filled up was engaging its attention, has the question been since disposed of? If so, will the Government be pleased to state on what principle these places will henceforth be filled up and the circumstances under which the principle has been adopted?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these appointments are no longer open to the natives of this country? If so, has the Government considered the fact that the change will place the Government and the people in the hands of irresponsible and ill-educated moonshees in the place of educated Indians of ability and character?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any necessity to take up and consider this question was pointed out to it by the Government of India or whether this Government took up the subject without any suggestion from without?

* 600 (*b*) *supra*, p. 218.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) It has been decided by Government not to make any change in the principles regulating the appointment of Translator to Government.

(*b*) It is not a fact that these appointments are no longer open to the natives of the country.

(*c*) The Government is not prepared to give the Honourable Member any information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

666 [VII] *Question.*—As no applicant was found fit for admission to the competitive examination which the Government proposed to hold in September last for the selection of a candidate as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police, will the Government be pleased to adopt this time the other method of recruitment in this country, namely, the promotion of a deserving public servant?

The Honble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The question whether an appointment should be filled this year by local recruitment is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

667 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Taluk Board of Ramnad, Madura district, has recently passed a resolution to abolish the dispensary at Mudukulattúr, to transfer the management of the dispensary at Aruppukóttai to the American Mission there on an annual grant of Rs. 550 from the Taluk Board, and to dispense with the services of the midwife at the dispensary in Pámban and that none would be attached to it in future ?

(*b*) Has the Government received petitions signed by the officials and inhabitants of Mudukulattúr and the surrounding villages pointing out the inconvenience and danger to the health of the inhabitants, numbering over 3,000, that would arise if the resolution is given effect to, stating among several other reasons that the institution was permanently established ten years ago with a substantial subscription from the people of the place ?

(*c*) In view of the reasons urged by these petitioners, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of rescinding this resolution ?

The Hon'bie Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) Proposals to abolish the dispensary at Mudukulattúr and to transfer the management of the dispensary at Aruppukóttai to the American Mission with an annual grant from taluk funds were embodied in the Local Fund budget of the Madura district for 1898–99. The Government is not aware of any proposal to dispense with the services of the midwife at Pámban.

(*b*) A petition on this subject was received in November last and transferred to the Taluk Board for consideration.

(*c*) The proposal to abolish the dispensary at Mudukulattúr has not been sanctioned by Government; but the proposed transfer of the Aruppukóttai dispensary to the Mission authorities has been approved.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

668 & 669 *Questions*—**668**[IX].—(*a*) With reference to paragraph 18 quoted below of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 719, dated 1st November 1892, embodied in G.O., No. 697, Revenue, dated 31st July 1893, sanctioning the new rates of settlement in Tanjore, will Government be pleased to state whether any, and what, steps have been taken to carry out the recommendation of the Board in the matter of effecting an "equitable and economical distribution of water" in that district ?

"*Paragraph* 18, *Regulation of Irrigation.*—A great deal has been done in the past towards the improvement of the irrigation of the delta. One of the finest and most useful works of this generation is a Vennár regulator completed in 1886, which enables the engineers to control the discharge of river water at the grand anicut, and at other points lower down similar headworks have been constructed to regulate the flow of various minor rivers which spread out over the delta. But much in the same direction remains to be done, and if the increase of assessment involved in the proposed settlement be imposed, it will certainly become the duty of Government to lay out very considerable sums upon the equitable and economical distribution of water upon which so large a revenue depends. The Acting Commissioner having, as Collector, lived for some four years in Tanjore, and being well acquainted with every part of the district, is convinced that much needless waste occurs in the process of irrigation, and that there is much inequality in the distribution of the available supply of water. Mr. Clerk draws attention to the Manniar, a branch from the Coleroon, under which cultivation is said to have deteriorated owing to diminished supply, resulting from remediable defects in the flow of the parent stream. The Board understands that a scheme for improving the lower anicut on the Coleroon is now under preparation by the Public Works Department, and suggests that the attention of the Chief Engineer be drawn to the Deputy Commissioner's remarks. In illustration of the inadequate sums laid out upon channel improvements, it may be mentioned that in the Tanjore taluk with an annual revenue of 5½ lakhs, only Rs. 10,000 have been spent on channels during the past ten years, *i.e.*, Rs. 1,000 a year."

(*b*) Whether any, and what, amount has been spent on the improvement of irrigation in the district on the lines recommended by the Board of Revenue ?

669 [X].—Will Government be pleased to state the nature of the special duty uponwhich Lieutenant-Colonel Smart is engaged in Tanjore at present ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

668 } *Answer.*—It was in view to the more equitable distribution of water
669 } between the main branches of the Cauvery and Vennár receiving early attention, that Colonel A. W. Smart, R.E., Superintending Engineer, was appointed on special duty in November 1895 for the preparation of the completion estimates of the Cauvery Delta system. The estimates prepared by this office for the following works have already been sanctioned and are under execution :—

		Rs.
(1)	Improvements to the Lower Coleroon anicut	1,25,000
(2)	„ „ Upper „	6,57,000
(3)	„ „ Grand anicut	1,29,200

In addition to the above works, regulators are required. At the heads of many of the minor channels open dams are required in place of immoveable anicuts. These works which are comparatively petty, all have the same object — a more effective distribution of the supply and greater security from floods. A complete plan of all channels and drainages and of the areas depending on them is under preparation by Colonel Smart so that all improvements of this kind may be undertaken systematically.

The amounts spent on improvements to the Cauvery Delta system since 1893 are shown below :—

—	Outlay on works exclusive of establishment and tools and plant charges.		
	Major improvements.	Minor improvements.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1893–94	500	11,859	12,359
1894–95	5,309	8,198	13,507
1895–96	21,605	11,445	33,050
1896–97	34,884	19,576	54,460
1897–98 (probable)	1,07,576	14,096	1,21,672

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

670 [XI] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., No. 512, Revenue, dated 30th June 1897, directing the preparation of a "record of irrigation rights" in Tanjore, will Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to undertake legislation in view to the adjudication of disputed claims ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government order quoted directed the preparation of a memorandum of existing arrangements for irrigation in the Tanjore district and not the preparation of a record of irrigation rights.

The question of the necessity of legislation is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

671 [XII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any scheme in contemplation for the improvement of irrigation in Pattukkóttai taluk (Tanjore), and if so, what is the proposed scheme and its approximate cost ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—Yes. The investigation of the scheme is now being actively proceeded with under Colonel Smart. This is a tank project which will be fed from the Vennár by a supply channel capable of carrying 5,000 cubic feet per second. It will probably cost about 40 lakhs and bring under irrigation about 40,000 acres, besides securing the lower parts of the Cauvery delta affected by the Vennár from floods.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

672 [XIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to furnish any available information regarding the proposed "Bhaváni Scheme" (Coimbatore), and state what district and acreage therein the scheme is likely to serve, and what may be the approximate cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The Bhaváni scheme is required for the improvement of the supply of the Tanjore lands and to induce the extension of double-crop cultivation. The site which appears to be most promising for the dam has been fully investigated and an estimate for the project will be made as soon as the inquiries regarding possible extension of irrigation are completed. The probable cost of the project has not yet been worked out.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

673 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government in a position to give definite information regarding the prevention of plague by inoculation and will it be pleased to state whether the experiments made till now in Bombay and elsewhere will justify the introduction of inoculation with any degree of confidence and safety?

(*b*) Has Government made any arrangements for introduction of inoculation in this Presidency, should necessity for preventive measures arise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the orders of Government noted in the margin, which contain the results of inoculation in the city of Bombay and Damaun, and which have been placed on the Editors' Table. It has not yet been shown that inoculation with prophylactic serum can be relied on as a means to prevent the spread of plague; but the results of experiments hitherto made are distinctly encouraging.

G.O., No. 367 M., dated 4th March 1897.
" " 887 M. " 13th April "
" " 2448 M. " 6th Nov. "
" " 2621 M. " 26th " "

(*b*) Yes. Twenty syringes and a stock of serum sufficient to inoculate 500 persons are kept ready for use; while Surgeon-Major Bannerman, who has been specially trained by Professor Haffkine in preparing the serum and in the method of inoculation, is under orders of recall to the Presidency.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

674 [XV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether pensions paid by Native States to their retired officers now resident in British territory are liable to income-tax, and whether such cases are being assessed now?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—Such pensions are liable to income-tax under Act II of 1886 if they are received in British India. As far as the Government is aware, such cases are duly assessed.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

675 [XVI] *Question.*—With reference to the *Fort St. George Gazette* Supplement, Part I-A, dated 1st February 1898, Notification No. 74, regarding the removal of a municipal councillor from his office at Tiruvannámalai, will Government be pleased to order the papers on the matter to be placed on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The papers will be shown to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

676 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that the revised kistbandi for land revenue in four equal instalments of January to April has resulted in general hardship to the pattadars in Tanjore and other districts, that they are forced to bring to the market at a great disadvantage in prices the grain as it is being harvested, and that during the earlier instalments they are even obliged to obtain advances of loans from grain-dealers on unfavourable terms against crops not yet harvested?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to call for reports, if necessary, as to the working of the revised kistbandi, and take into consideration the desirability of reverting to the old kistbandi?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hon'ble Member will be referred to the reply given to question No. VII * asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Subba Rao Pantulu in the Legislative Council meeting held on the 26th February 1896. As indicated in the concluding portion of that reply, the question of revising the *kistbandi* was before Government in 1896, and after a very careful consideration of the various proposals put forward, His Excellency the Governor in Council arrived at the conclusion that no case was made out for any change in the existing instalments of land revenue collections except in the case of the Tanjore district in which the complicated kistbandi of eight instalments previously obtaining was assimilated to that of four equal instalments as in other districts. Government is not aware that the revised kistbandi has resulted in hardship in Tanjore or elsewhere.

* 288 *supra*, p. 113.

(*b*) The Government is not prepared to re-open the question at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

677 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Amin Veerasami Nayudu, the accused in C.C. No. 581 of 1894 (on the file of the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Cuddalore) submitted memorials to the Government in respect of the conduct of the Sub-Magistrate M.R.Ry. S. Sundra Aiyar, who tried the case, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state whether any and, if so, what orders were passed thereon?

(*b*) With reference to questions Nos. XX to XXIV † asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Kalyanasundram Aiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 8th April 1896 and the reply to question XXIV ‡ "that the matter is still under the consideration of Government", will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken as regards the Sub-Magistrate, who is now Tahsildar of Tirukkóyilúr, South Arcot, in respect of whom the High Court of Madras remarked among other things that he "appears to have wasted a vast amount of public time and allowed the process of the Court to be abused in the trial of the case"?

† 333 to 337, *supra*, pp. 125 and 126.
‡ 337 *supra*, p 126.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes. The memorials were perused by Government but no action thereon was considered to be necessary.

(*b*) No further action was taken in the matter. The Government considered that the censure of the High Court was sufficient.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

678 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that out of a total strength of 24 councillors, the Trichinopoly Municipality is allowed to elect only eight councillors?

(*b*) With reference to the circumstance that minor Municipalities have been given the privilege of electing two-thirds of the councillors, and that the privilege of electing its Chairman has been restored to the Trichinopoly Municipal Council, will Government be pleased to grant to it the privilege of electing a larger proportion of councillors?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of this question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government regrets that it cannot accept this suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

679 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that the people of Trichinopoly are just now suffering much on account of the failure of water-works?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the several defects existing in the boiler-room, engine-house, and the pumping well were brought to the notice of the Government by means of petitions, and also by the Chairman of the Municipal Council, and will Government be pleased to state what orders have been issued by it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer—(*a*) The answer to the first part of this question is in the negative.

(*b*) No petitions have been received pointing out defects in the boiler-room, the engine-house and the pumping well. The Chairman of the Municipal Council brought to notice the existence of certain defects and the matter is now under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

680 [XXI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the cost of the scheme (Trichinopoly water-works), as prepared by Mr. Oldham, was only 2½ lakhs of rupees and that it included the construction of a reservoir capable of holding a three days' supply for the town, and that the scheme as modified by Mr. Jones has already cost over six lakhs without the reservoir?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The scheme prepared by Mr. Oldham in 1888 was estimated to cost 2½ lakhs for the supply of water to only certain portions of the Municipality; but including the South Indian Railway station and the sepoy lines, the estimate amounted to Rs. 3,59,559. The estimate as revised by the Sanitary Engineer in 1891, with reference to the rates and prices then current, amounted to Rs. 4,43,000. This scheme provided for a supply of 10 gallons per head and for the construction of a service reservoir, capable of holding two days' supply.

The scheme as modified by Mr. Jones does not provide for a reservoir, but is calculated to supply 15 gallons per head per diem instead of 10. The total expenditure on the scheme up to 31st March 1897 was Rs. 5,00,500 against an estimate of Rs. 5,18,255. There is no information as to what expenditure has been incurred subsequently.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

681 [XXII] *Question.*—Is it true that the head-works were constructed at a place a little lower down the present site, and that these were washed away by the floods in 1893, and will Government be pleased to state the extent of the loss in consequence thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With regard to the latter part, the Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 14 of the Assistant Sanitary Engineer's report on the revised water-supply scheme printed in G.O., No. 384 M., dated 28th March 1894, which has been placed on the 'Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

682 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Municipal Council at Trichinopoly has now applied to the Government to have a reservoir capable of holding a day's supply at a cost of Rs. 75,000?

(*b*) Is it a fact that even so late as last year Mr. Jones advised the council to extend the pipe laying to Oraiyur and Puttur which form part of the Municipality, instead of building a reservoir which he considered to be a superfluity?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The answer to the two parts of this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

683 [XXIV] *Question.*—In view of the fact that the pumping had to be stopped owing to the failure of the water-works at Trichinopoly, so soon after their construction, will Government be pleased to order a thorough investigation into the causes of the failure, and ascertain whether there were faults in construction and, if so, who is responsible for the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The matter will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

684 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Collector's present Huzur Sarishtadar M.R.Ry. T. Sesha Aiyar in Tinnevelly is a native of that district, and whether he has lands and relatives in it?

(*b*) If it is a fact, will Government be pleased to issue orders in view to his transfer to some other district?

(*c*) If Government has no information on the matter, will it be pleased to call for a report?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government has no information on the subject.

(*c*) The Government does not think it necessary to call for a report in the matter; but a copy of the question will be communicated to the Board of Revenue as the confirmation of the appointment of Huzur Sarishtadar rests with that authority.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR:—

685 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that under permissions granted to the Revenue Department in or about the year 1863, ryots of the villages of Molakathalla, Chithraghad, Tharimala, Pamidi, Chittur, and other villages situated close to the banks of the Pennéru river in Gooty taluk of Anantapur district dug river channels from the Pennéru at their own expense and brought waste lands under cultivation?

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

695 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the appointment of four additional District Munsifs has been sanctioned by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The matter is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

696 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that, with the exception of Saiyid Tajuddin Sahib, the Madras Provincial Service, Judicial Branch, is utterly unrepresented by Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is aware that there is only one Muhammadan in the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

* 696 *supra.*

697 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—If the answer to question No. XXXVII * be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to suggest to the High Court the desirability of appointing some competent Muhammadans as District Munsifs?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The appointment of District Munsifs vests by law in the High Court and the Government therefore cannot interfere in the matter.

24. MEETING OF THE 13TH MAY 1898.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

698 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether Major (now General) Fischer, R.E., had investigated and projected a scheme for irrigating a large extent of land in the Bellary district from the Tungabhadra river as a protection against famine, and whether General Sir Arthur Cotton, the projector of the Gôdâvari irrigation system, had approved the said scheme of General Fischer for the irrigation of Bellary district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The several projects connected with the irrigation of the Bellary district from the Tungabhadra river, though included in the original scheme of the late Madras Irrigation Canal Company, appear first to have been taken up by the officers of Governor in the year 1854 and investigations were conducted under the orders of Colonel A. T. Cotton and the immediate direction of Captain Fischer during the years 1857-58 and 1859. The papers connected with these investigations appear to have been lost shortly after they were completed and cannot now be found.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

699 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which General Fischer's scheme or any similar one has not been adopted for the protection of Bellary district till now, though this district, being situated in the heart of the famine zone, is subject to frequent and most serious devastations of famine?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has for many years past endeavoured to work out a satisfactory scheme for the improvement of the irrigation of the Bellary district, but hitherto has been unable to recommend any scheme for sanction on account of the enormous cost of the works and the small returns to be expected.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

700 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the said scheme of General Fischer and the results of subsequent investigations, if any?

(*b*) Will the Government be also pleased to request General Fischer, if necessary, to re-submit his scheme with any modifications he may deem fit to make, before his departure to England?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) From the papers marginally-noted, which will be furnished to the Honourable Member, it will be seen that several proposals made for the improvement of the Bellary irrigation have been already fully considered. What is believed to be Colonel Fischer's scheme is amongst those recently re-investigated. A report regarding it is now before Government and will be published when orders are passed.

Chief Engineer's Office Memo. 32 B.L., dated 13th June 1877.
P.W.D. No. 955 I., dated 13th November 1885.
P.W.D. No. 521 I., dated 29th October 1889.

(*b*) General Fischer retired from the service many years ago, and Government has no control over him.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

701 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that besides the Tungabhadra project, another scheme to irrigate the Bellary and adjacent taluks from the Hagari river was also projected?

(*b*) Is the Government also aware that in consideration of the large expense and trouble incurred by ryots in digging channels at their own cost and bringing waste lands under cultivation, a permanent arrangement was made by the Revenue Department to collect special reduced rates, generally Rs. 1–8–0 per acre as tirvajasti and half the said amount as fasaljasti instead of the usual wet assessment levied for lands irrigated by Government channels?

(*c*) Is it a fact that during the recent settlement of the Gooty taluk the Settlement officers ignored the existence of private channels and special rates and charged the said lands with wet assessment thus placing the lands under private channels on a level with lands under Government channels?

(*d*) Is it a fact also that on appeal to the Board of Revenue by the ryots, who were affected by the orders of the Settlement officers, the Board were pleased to confirm the special rates fixed in 1863 and cancel the settlement rates in the case of Chittur village only as per Board's Proceedings, No. 3747, dated 27th June 1893, but declined to set aside the settlement rates in the case of other villages similarly situated?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to inquire into this matter fully, and afford relief to the owners of all private channels and lands thereunder by confirming the special rates fixed at the time when the ryots agreed to dig them at their own expense and remit all enhancements over the said rates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) Several cases have come to the notice of the Board of Revenue in which permission had been granted by local officers, at various times, for the construction of irrigation channels by private persons from the Pennéru river in the Gooty taluk.

(*b*) In all such cases, certain special rates, less than the ordinary rates, had been sanctioned by local officers. Such special rates were, in some cases, consolidated wet rates; in some favourable water-rates charged in addition to dry assessment. There was no permanent arrangement made by the Revenue Department.

(*c*) The existence of these channels and rates was not ignored. The assessment of the lands was revised with the sanction and approval of the Board of Revenue and the Government.

(*d*) In no case of appeal traceable in the office of the Board of Revenue was the original special rate confirmed. In the case of the Chittur village referred to, a special rate of Rs. 2–8–0 per acre was sanctioned in lieu of the original rates which averaged less than one rupee per acre.

(*e*) The cases were fully investigated at the time of settlement and the Settlement Department held that the special rates sanctioned by local officers were subject to revision at the time of settlement, as the terms of the original grants did not preclude such revision and as the rates which were very moderate had been in force sufficiently long to compensate the ryots for their outlay. The Government sees no reason to inquire further into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

686 [XXVII] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that of the eleven boys presented in 1896 and nine boys presented in 1897 for the Matriculation Examination from the Government Madrasa-i-Azam not one was successful in passing that examination?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan:—

Answer.—Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

687 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Has the Headmaster of the school been asked to explain the cause of this failure?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan:—

Answer.—Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

688 & 689 *Questions*—**688** [XXIX].—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any scheme for the reorganization of the school has been received by it and if so, when?

689 [XXX].—Does the scheme for the re-organization referred to in Question No. XXIX * include any proposal for improving the efficiency of the teachers of the lower department?

* 688 *supra.*

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

688 } **689** } *Answer.*—Certain proposals for improving the accommodation and the establishment of the Madrasa-i-Azam have lately been received from the Director of Public Instruction.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

690 [XXXI] *Question.*—While sanctioning the list of public holidays, was any suggestion received by Government to include Duazdaham-i-sheriff, or the birthday of the Prophet, as a holiday for Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The answer is "No".

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

691 [XXXII] *Question.*—In view of the great sanctity attached to the birthday of their Prophet by the Muhammadans, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of including the abovementioned day in the list?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The Government will consider the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

692 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that the Collector of Madura has recommended non-Muhammadans for the two vacancies caused by the retirement of Muhammadan members in the Municipal Council of Palni?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The Collector of Madura has recommended the appointment of a non-Muhammadan for a vacancy caused by the retirement of a Muhammadan member.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

693 [XXXIV] *Question.*—Has the Government received any memorial from the Muhammadans of this place protesting against the Collector's recommendation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD:—

694 [XXXV] *Question.*—If so, will the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed on this memorial?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—A report on the subject has been called for from the Collector.

(*c*) And what are the general educational qualifications prescribed for candidates appearing for the Account Tests ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answers.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Honourable Member is referred to the rules on the subject in Volume I of the Public Works Department Code issued by the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

708 [XI *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the rules, if any, for the recruitment of the subordinate grades of the Account Branch of the Public Works Department in this Presidency, and also if these rules have been adhered to strictly during the last four years ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the orders, if any, either of this Government or of the Government of India in the matter of the recruitment of this branch of the service ?

(*c*) If there have been deviations from the rules and orders as to the appointments or promotions in this branch of the service, will the Government be pleased to state the number of such deviations within the last four years and the reasons therefor ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answers.—(*a*) & (*b*) The rules will be found in G.O., No. 1802 W., dated 10th July 1883, a copy of which will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

(*c*) The information is not available in the Government office. It has been called for and will be made available to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

709 [XII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of revenue realized by the Commissioner of Police on licenses granted for the use of music in processions of Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the city of Madras during the year 1897-98 ?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that till 1888 no license fees for performing music were charged for applications from Hindu temples and Muhammadan religious institutions, that in 1888 a fee of 4 annas only was charged for the whole period of an occasional festival lasting for several days, and that subsequently a fee of 4 annas was collected for each day of a festival lasting for more than a day ?

(*c*) Is the Government also aware that from 1888 fees were charged only on the occasion of special festivals as described above, and that till 1895 no license fee was required for daily customary ceremonies accompanied with music, and that since April 1895 a daily license fee of 4 annas is levied for the daily customary ceremonies and also additional fee of 4 annas for every day of an occasional festival?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state, if all the various collections of fees from temples and other religious institutions stated in clauses (*b*) and (*c*) *supra* are in pursuance of orders of Government or any other authority, and will the Government be pleased to place on the table all orders in connection with the collection of such fees ?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to place Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the matter of music in the same position as they were before 1888, by exempting such institutions from the payment of any fees and granting free licenses when required ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answers.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The Government is not at present in possession of complete information on the subject, but a report has been called for. The Honourable Member is requested to repeat his questions at the next meeting * of the Legislative Council.

* 835 *infra*, p. 300.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

710 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if its attention has been drawn to a communication, regarding the Public Works Department of Madras, contained in the issue of the *Hindu* Newspaper, dated 15th March 1898, making suggestions for a complete re-organization of the department by a reduction of 6 circles into 3 and 25 ordinary divisions to 17, thereby effecting a saving of nearly 2½ lakhs of rupees ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the practicability of effecting savings in this direction without impairing the efficiency of the department ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer—Yes. The Government considers that the Public Works establishment cannot be reduced without impairing its efficiency, and is not at present prepared to move in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

711 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following notification of the Collector of Coimbatore published in the District Gazette, dated 5th March 1898, and have the terms of the notification the entire approval of Government ? :—

Notification.

1. "It has been brought to the notice of the Collector that there is a tendency on the part of the ryots to interfere with the arrangements made by Government for the proper distribution of water from channels and tanks, by causing injuries to sluices, regulators or dams provided for the regulation of water from irrigation works in this district, with the object of obtaining an unfair supply of water for their fields. The subject has recently been considered by Government which has passed orders declaring that in cases where such damages has been caused, penal assessment should be levied upon all the lands benefited by the damage done.
2. "The public are therefore warned that persons who recieve 'an unusual supply' of water to their lands in consequence of damage done to sluices, regulators or dams, will be held to have participated in causing such damage, and will be punished by the imposition of heavy penal rates upon their lands.
3. "Village officers are responsible for seeing that sluices are in good order, and cases of interference must be promptly brought to notice in order that the offenders, if known, may be prosecuted. Village officers will publish this notice by beat of tom-tom in their villages."

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to cause a revision of the terms of the notification in order that persons who are not responsible for the mischief directly or indirectly, may be safe ?

(*c*) Is there any authorised scale for the levy of penal assessment, and if not, will Government be pleased to frame one, with due regard to the gravity of the mischief, and the benefit resulting to the mischief-doer ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has seen the notification referred to which was issued in pursuance of its orders.

(*b*) These orders were issued as cases of mischief of this kind were becoming very general in Coimbatore and as it was found impossible to detect or trace the actual offenders. The presumption is that those whose lands are benefited by the damage are responsible for the damage. It will be open to any person to adduce evidence to satisfy the Collector to the contrary. In order to make the intention more clear, the notification will be recast.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which this project also was not given effect to, and also place on the table the papers relating to this scheme if available?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hagari-Rayadrug project is probably what is referred to. This project was investigated in 1858, probably under the orders of Lieutenant (now General) Fischer, and provided for a weir across the Hagari not far from the Mysore frontier with a channel 45 miles long on the left and 100 miles long on the right. The project was anticipated to cost Rs. 47¼ lakhs and yield a return of one per cent.

(*b*) The project was abandoned owing to the precariousness of the water-supply in the Hagari. The orders noted on the margin discussing the project will be furnished to the Honourable Member. The scheme has also been recently reconsidered and is discussed in the report before the Government.

Revenue G.O., No. 523, F.R., dated 30th January 1878.
Revenue G.O., No. 118, dated 8th February 1890.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

702 [V] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if any measures have been adopted or are in contemplation to provide Bellary town with a free and copious supply of drinking-water?

(*b*) If any general scheme of water-supply is impracticable at present, will the Government be pleased to adopt measures to extend the present reservoir at Alipore, so as to retain a larger storage of water, as was proposed in a scheme submitted to Government by Colonel (now General) Fischer in or about 1880?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 1463 M., dated 21st June 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' table.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

703 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the present hospital building at Bellary has been condemned as unsuited for hospital purposes?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what effect has been given by the Municipal or other authorities to the remarks made by His Excellency the Governor in the Hospital Visitors' Book, during his last visit to Bellary, that a separate building should be provided for the purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Surgeon-General has taken exception to the building as being unsuited for use as a hospital.

(*b*) A provision of Rs. 15,000 was made in the budget for 1897-98 for the construction of a new building; but the allotment has not been utilized as the question of selecting a suitable site for the building is still under the consideration of the Municipal Council.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

704 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that frequent representations were made to the Board of Revenue in the year 1891 and once in the same year to Government by the ryots of Angadu, Kummanur Sirviam, Orakkadu, and adjacent villages in the Ponnéri taluk, Chingleput district, which are irrigated by the Sholavaram tank, complaining about the irregular and scanty supply of water to their lands by reason of competition of the ryots of numerous other villages situated nearer the sluice of the tank, and praying for the settlement of a scheme for the regular and equal supply to all the villages situated under the tank?

(*b*) Was a scheme for regular and equal distribution of water proposed by the Taluk or District authorities in 1892 and the same approved and notified in all the villages irrigated by the said Sholavaram tank, to be strictly adhered to on pain of prosecution for disobedience?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that beyond notifying the scheme for distribution in the villages, nothing further has been done to carry out the order in spite of repeated representations to the Taluk and District authorities in regard to the continued scanty and irregular supply?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to order enquiries to be made into the matter, and issue such directions as it may deem fit to remedy the long-standing grievances of the ryots of the above-mentioned villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject. A copy of the question will be sent to the Board of Revenue for such inquiry and action as may be necessary.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

705 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it has received any communications regarding the question of the right of interpellation to be exercised by the Municipal Commissioners for the city of Madras?

(*b*) And, if so, what orders have been passed on the subject?

(*c*) If the question admits of any doubt, will the Government be pleased to have recourse to legislation at an early date, with a view to granting the privilege as it was done in the case of District Municipalities by Act III of 1897?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Municipal Commissioners have been informed that in the absence of an express provision in the City of Madras Municipal Act I of 1884, as amended by Madras Acts VII of 1884 and II of 1895 conferring on them the privilege of interpellation, it could not be created by a resolution of the Commissioners and that the propriety of amending the Act so as to empower the Commissioners to exercise this right would be considered on the next suitable opportunity.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

706 [IX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) In how many Municipalities in this Presidency have Secretaries been till now appointed in accordance with the provisions of Act III of 1897?

(*b*) How many of them have been in the service of Government at the time of their appointment?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) In eight Municipalities.

(*b*) Five.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

707 [X] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) If there is any examination held for admission into the subordinate grades of the Accounts Department of the Public Works Department, and if so, who conducts the examination?

(*b*) Has the Government appointed a Board of Examiners for conducting the examination, as it is the case with examinations for other branches of the public service?

(*c*) The Government has not laid down any fixed scale for the levy of penal assessments and does not propose to do so. The matter is one which must be left to the discretion of the local authorities subject to appeal to superior authority.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

712 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Burmese convicts in jails are allowed rice diet, while Indian convicts, whatever their previous position in life may have been, and although their customary diet has been rice, are invariably put upon ragi diet?

(*b*) Is it a fact that even pure Indians with English names and European costumes are placed on a footing of equality with Europeans, Eurasians and East Indians in the matter of jail diet, and allowed bread, butter and coffee, &c.?

(*c*) Is Government aware that change of customary diets in jails has resulted frequently in deaths, and will Government be pleased to state the extent of the loss of convict life brought about by the above cause during the last ten years?

(*d*) If Government is not in possession of the above information, will it be pleased to obtain statistics in the matter, and place the same on the table?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to undertake a revision of the Jail Code in view to convicts being allowed in jails the same food to which they have been accustomed previous to their admission into the jail?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to diet scales B & C in Rule 428 of the Jail Code, a copy of which he can see in the office.

(*b*) Pure Indians may occasionally pass themselves off successfully as Europeans and so get Eurasian diet; but it is not believed that this happens often.

(*c*) The answer to the first part of the question is 'No.' With reference to the second part, the Government has no reason to believe that there has been any loss of life from this cause.

(*d*) The Government does not consider that any useful object will be served by undertaking the elaborate task of endeavouring to collect statistics on the subject.

(*e*) The Government regrets that it cannot accept this suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

713 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Government has made it obligatory upon parties and suitors transacting business with the Revenue offices to use water-marked paper of a particular make each sheet of which, which corresponds to half a sheet of the ordinary foolscap, is to be sold for quarter of an anna by the Stamp-vendors?

(*b*) Whether the circumstance that the paper prescribed by Government costs As. 12 per quire (while the same quantity of the foolscap paper hitherto in use costs only As. 2) does not work as a real hardship upon the people, and whether Government will be pleased to rescind the order?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative. But the compulsory character of the order will be further considered.

(*b*) As it is found that the petitions and other documents filed in the various offices in the Presidency are often written on paper unfitted for the purposes of record which sometimes leads to fraud and sometimes to the destruction of valuable documents, and that these results are due partly at any rate to the difficulty which persons in outstations especially experience in procuring paper of good quality in small quantities at a moderate cost, it is thought desirable to remedy the evil as far as possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

714 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the Chief and Second Engineers, suffering from small-pox, of the steam ship *Purnea* which came into the Madras Harbour in the beginning of April last, were refused admittance into the General Hospital, and whether the officers had therefore to be taken to the Segregation Camp at Rayapuram?

(*b*) Whether Government will be pleased to invite the attention of the Madras Municipality to the want of a Municipal contagious diseases hospital in Madras, in view to the want being supplied at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The Government has called for a report on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

715 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the water-works system in Adóni has been a success?

(*b*) Whether the Nellucheruvoo tank, which is the reservoir of the system, became dry during the past year, and people had to resort to old and disused wells which had to be cleaned out for the occasion?

(*c*) Whether the water taken from the filter beds of the Nellucheruvoo tank has been tested, and found to be of good quality?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Inspection notes of the Sanitary Engineer printed in G.O., No. 230 M., dated 16th February 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) The tank became dry last year. For keeping up the water-supply three wells were sunk in the bed of the tank. The Government has no information about people having had to resort to old and disused wells.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

716 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether Government has received a memorial from the Madras Trades Association complaining of the official connection with the Madras Lawrence Asylum Press, and its competition with private trade?

(*b*) Whether Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of making the Lawrence Asylum Press a purely Government branch and prohibiting it from taking private work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

717 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a correspondence headed "Tinnevelly Collectorate" in the *Madras Standard* of the 23rd March 1898, which implicates certain native Revenue officials of the district in taking up a dharkast land and partitioning it among themselves?

(*b*) Is there any truth in the statements made in the above correspondence?

(*c*) If Government is not in possession of any information in the matter, will it be pleased, in the interests of the officials referred to, to order an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of Government was not drawn to the letter headed "the Tinnevelly Collectorate" till this question was asked.

(*b*) The Government has no information on the subject.

(*c*) It is stated in the letter that the Collector was taking steps to make a searching inquiry, so Government sees no reason to issue any order on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

718 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it the intention of Government to make arrangements to send up to the Paris Exhibition of 1900 Indian products of industry in weaving, metal work, ivory, marble-carving, agriculture, etc. ?

(*b*) Whether any, and what, arrangements have been made in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—No. No official intimation regarding the exhibition has been received.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

719 [XXII] *Question.*—Whether Government has passed final orders on the recent resolution of the Senate of the Madras University cancelling the rule in regard to the compulsory attendance of the failed B.A. candidates at a college ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to Questions Nos. LV * and XXXII * at the meetings of the Council held on 9th April 1897 and 1st February last, respectively.

* 567 and 656 *supra*, pp. 207 and 236 respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

720 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whose property St. John's Church at Pondicherry is, and whether there is any reasonable doubt as to its proprietorship?

(*b*) Whether Government has authorized the Public Works Department to execute certain repairs to the above Church at a cost of between 13,000 and 14,000 rupees from the budgeted savings of the department, and if the question of its ownership was in doubt, what were the reasons which influenced Government in sanctioning this expenditure ?

(*c*) Whether, in order to place the question of its ownership beyond a doubt, Government will be pleased to order an enquiry as to when, and by whom, the Church was built, and as to the details of its subsequent management ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is property vested in the Bishop and Archdeacon as trustees. There is no reasonable doubt as to the ownership.

(*b*) Government sanctioned the execution of the repairs by the Public Works Department at a cost of between Rs. 1,300 and Rs. 1,400. The question of ownership was not in doubt when the sanction was given.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to the first part of his question.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

721 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the system of recruitment to the Subordinate Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department instituted by the Government of India and the probationary training prescribed therein have been carried out in this Presidency ?

(*b*) How many vacancies occurred in the Accounts Establishment since the issue of orders by the Government of India on the system of recruitment, and in how many instances was the India Government Order complied with, and in how many instances was it departed from ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is not in possession of the information asked for, but has called for it and will communicate it to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

722 [XXV] *Question.*—In reference to the Order of the Government that "no plaint, petition, or similar document" should be received, from and subsequent to the 1st of April last, in any Revenue Court or by any Revenue Officer in this Presidency excepting the district of the Nilgiris, unless the same documents were written upon the new water-marked paper referred to in the order and supplied by the Government, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether, before issuing this order, it had invited opinions as to the desirability of passing such an order, and if so, from whom ?

(*b*) Whether it had taken the opinion of the Advocate-General or the High Court as to the legality of the order ?

(*c*) What is the law under the provisions of which the Government acted in issuing this order ?

(*d*) Whether, before issuing the order, the Government considered the great hardship to which agriculturists seeking redress from Government and parties in Revenue Courts would be put to in consequence of the great price of the paper, *viz.*, twelve annas per quire, while the best paper in the bazaar is to be had at about two annas a quire ?

(*e*) At what rate is the paper supplied to the Government by the Titaghur Paper Mills Company at Calcutta ?

(*f*) What are the circumstances under which the district of the Nilgiris has been exempted from the operation of this order ?

(*g*) Whether, except for the purposes mentioned in the order, the Government has directed the use of this paper in any of its departments, and if so, in what departments ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government consulted the Administrations of Bengal, the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces, Assam and the Hyderabad Assigned districts, and as it found that the use of a special plain paper for documents intended for record in Courts had been approved by the Government of India in 1872 and arrangements similar to those now in force had been adopted or were in contemplation in all those places, it resolved to introduce those arrangements as an experiment.

(*b*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(*c*) Government acted under no law, nor in contravention of any law.

(*d*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question XVI.* * 718 *supra*, p. 264.

(*e*) The paper is supplied at the rate of Rs. 3-1-0 per ream *plus* transit charges.

(*f*) The Nilgiri district was exempted from the operation of the rule in view of the fact that the people generally are not concentrated in towns and villages in the same way that they are on the plains, and would be put to great inconvenience if they had to resort to stamp-vendors who are stationed in the district only in a very few localities.

(*g*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

723 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what precautions it is taking in view to minimise the chances of the plague breaking out in this Presidency ?

(*b*) Has the Government authoritative information from Calcutta or any other place that rats carry infection of the plague? Has the Sanitary Commissioner made a report on this subject? In view of the statement made in Calcutta and of the general belief that rats import infection, will the Government be pleased to adopt measures for the destruction and burning of these animals in all large towns and railway stations and in as many other places as the Government deems fit in this Presidency?

(*c*) Whether in view to prevent risk of infection and in view of sanitation, the Government would modify its Order No. 1002, Revenue, dated 30th November 1897, relating to the disposal of unclaimed corpses by directing that these be burnt instead of being buried?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) (1) Quarantine is enforced against all vessels arriving from plague-infected ports.

(2) Steps are taken when necessary to prevent the attendance at festivals and fairs of persons from infected areas.

(3) The bringing of used apparel and bedding (except when carried as the personal baggage of travellers), rags and waste-paper from plague-infected parts and other places has been prohibited.

(4) Inspection stations have been provided under competent medical officers at the three railway frontier stations of Hospet, Tungabhadra and Kondapalli and also at Podanúr, Arkónam and Perambúr at which persons arriving from infected areas are medically examined and detained if they are not able to satisfy the medical officer that they are healthy or that they are proceeding to any fixed place of residence.

(5) The two districts of Bellary and Kurnool which are nearest to the plague-infected provinces have been placed "under observation" under the Additional Regulations published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 1st March 1898.

(6) All persons arriving from infected parts are kept under observation for ten days.

(7) For other precautionary measures the Honourable Member is referred to the Plague Regulations published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* dated 23rd August 1897, 18th December 1897, and 1st March 1898.

(*b*) Wherever there has been plague, it has been the general experience that rats get infected first and spread the infection. The Sanitary Commissioner's opinion that rats are liable to infection and act as conveyers of plague is embodied in the note prefixed to the Rules for combating plague issued under the District Municipalities Act and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, Part I-A, dated 16th March 1897. In G.O., No. 274-M., dated 23rd February 1897, the attention of all Collectors, Presidents of District Boards, and Chairmen of Municipal Councils and of the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, was drawn to the part taken by rats in the dissemination of plague, and instructions were issued for their destruction. G.O., No. 93-P., dated 26th February 1898, with which the Additional Plague Regulations were issued, requires the destruction of rats in areas declared infected and authorizes the grant of rewards for dead rats. As an experimental measure and on the advice of the Sanitary Commissioner rats are now being destroyed in two of the frontier villages in the Kurnool district and a reward of 2 pies given for each rat. The destruction of rats is so simple a precaution that the people themselves ought to take it for their own safety and no further measures on the part of Government ought to be necessary.

(*c*) With reference to the impossibility of prescribing cremation in the case of corpses which happen to be the corpses of Muhammadans, and of meeting subsequent claims of relatives and to the danger that cases of unnatural death may be concealed, cremation cannot be ordered. But an instruction will be added to the order that in the case of a person who has died or is suspected to have died of plague, the corpse shall be wrapped in a cloth soaked in a strong solution of a suitable disinfectant and be buried six feet deep.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

724 [XXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is in possession of reliable information regarding the results of inoculation according to Professor Haffkine's system?

(*b*) Whether it is in a position to state if Professor Haffkine's prophylactic is a safe and efficient vaccine against the plague. And if so, whether it thinks it possible to adopt measures at once to introduce into this Presidency and to encourage the practice of inoculation according to this system as a precautionary measure?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) Mons. Haffkine's report on preventive inoculation in the epidemic of plague at Undhera taluka, Baroda, has now been received and will be placed on the Editors' table. A note by the Officiating Director of the Indian Medical Department on anti-plague inoculation appears in the *Gazette of India* of the 7th instant which will be taken into consideration immediately. If people desire to be inoculated with Professor Haffkine's prophylactic, there will be no difficulty in arranging for inoculation without delay and the Government is prepared to give every encouragement to such persons.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

725 [XXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Under what circumstances it was thought necessary to obtain the services of the Special Medical officers who have recently arrived from England in this Presidency?

(*b*) Whether these officers have been appointed on the understanding that they were to be employed in connection with plague duty and their services would be dispensed with when no longer necessary in that connection, or generally for temporary duty?

(*c*) Whether it would place on the table a statement showing the special qualifications, educational and otherwise, of these officers?

(*d*) Whether in view of the educational qualifications and experience of the Assistant Surgeons as well as their knowledge of the languages and manners of the people of this Presidency, the Government would consider the desirability of employing these officers on plague duty, so as to cause the least annoyance and irritation to the people in the discharge of this difficult duty?

(*e*) Under what circumstances was it that some of these new Medical Officers have been appointed as District Medical and Sanitary Officers?

(*f*) Whether in view of the educational qualifications, experience and popularity of the Assistant Surgeons, the Government would take their claims for promotion into consideration and permanently throw open to them the Civil stations and a fixed number of District stations to which they are often appointed as acting officers?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

Answer.—(*a*) The temporary medical officers were obtained to fill the vacancies caused by the absence on military duty of officers of the Indian Medical Service, and in view of the fact that in the event of the advent of the plague, additional medical assistance would be needed.

(*b*) They have been engaged for temporary plague and general duty.

(*c*) The information requiredby the Honourable Member can be obtained from the Medical Directory of Great Britain and Ireland.

(*d*) The Government considers it necessary that plague duties should, as far as possible, be carried out by Commissioned Officers or by gentlemen of similar professional attainments who will be assisted by medical subordinates acquainted with the languages and customs of the Presidency. Such duties will be assigned to Assistant Surgeons as their educational qualifications and experience may justify.

(e) Because they were the best qualified medical men available.

(*f*) Six Civil Surgeoncies, as well as the office of Additional Medical Officer on the Nilgiris, are already open to Assistant Surgeons provided that no commissioned medical officers are without appointments. Government has under consideration the question of permanently reserving some of these appointments for Assistant Surgeons.

25. MEETING OF THE 13TH DECEMBER 1898.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

726 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which have led to the postponement of the reorganization of the Madrasa-i-Azam?

(*b*) Should Government not be able to see its way to carry out the reorganization of the Madrasa in its entirety, will it be pleased, in view of the fact that all the candidates in the University Examinations have failed in two years consecutively, to appoint a European Headmaster from the beginning of the new year, as this may be done independently of the erection of a new building, and as this reform is, in the opinion of the community, most necessary and urgent?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the concession of half-fees enjoyed by the Muhammadan boys in all schools in this Presidency has been withdrawn from Breek's Memorial school at Ootacamund?

(*d*) Is Government also aware of the fact that the school-going Muhammadan population of Ootacamund is as poor as that of other towns? If so, will Government be pleased to restore the concession hitherto enjoyed by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—(*a*) The question of reorganizing the Madrasa-i-Azam is connected with that of finding a suitable site for the institution. A communication recently received from the Director of Public Instruction on this subject is now under consideration.

(*b*) The question of European supervision is raised in the communication above referred to, and cannot conveniently be decided apart from the general question of reorganization.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Government has reason to believe that the Muhammadan population of Cotacamund is exceptionally well-to-do. The concession referred to cannot be restored.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

727 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if its attention has been drawn to the entire absence of the Muhammadan element from the higher grades of the Salt and Abkári department, such as, Assistant Commissioners, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors?

(*b*) Is Government aware that even in the lower ranks of the Sub-Inspectors, there are only 27 Muhammadans, whilst there are 776 Hindus?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of transferring one of the Muhammadan Deputy Collectors as an Assistant Commissioner of Salt and Abkári Revenue, as was recently done in the case of a Hindu Deputy Collector, and draw the attention of the Board of Revenue to this proposal and to the facts mentioned in clauses (*a*) and (*b*) in view to a better representation of the Muhammadans in the Salt, Abkári and Customs department?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

Answer.—The attention of the Board of Revenue will be drawn to the questions put by the Honourable Member. It may be stated, however, that in the last two years six Muhammadan Sub-Inspectors have been superseded *in their grade*, presumbly for inefficiency, by six Hindus, and of these six Muhammadans one has recently been reduced and another dismissed.

The answer to clause (*c*) is in the negative. The Hindu Deputy Collector referred to had ten years' training in the Separate Revenue department before being appointed Assistant Commissioner.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

728 [III] *Question.*—Is Government aware of the entire absence of Muhammadans in the higher grades of the Forest service, ever since the retirement of the solitary Muhammadan Assistant Conservator of Forests some years ago? Will Government be pleased to instruct the Board of Revenue to issue orders to Conservators to give encouragement to Muhammadan candidates, seeing that Muhammadans as a class are eminently fitted for out-door work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Recruitment for the higher grades of the Forest service is regulated by certain rules which will be found reproduced in sections 19 to 34 of the Madras Forest Code. Muhammadan candidates who qualify themselves for employment under these rules will receive every just encouragement.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

729 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that M.R.Ry. A. M. Chinnasami Mudaliyar, who is unconnected with the Registration department, has been appointed Registrar of Assurances?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to make a similar concession in the case of the Muhammadan community by appointing one at least of their number as a Registrar, especially as no Muhammadan holds the appointment of Registrar and some of the Muhammadan Sub-Registrars in the higher grade are already leaving the department for want of encouragement?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There is no vacancy in the grade of Registrars at present. When a vacancy occurs, the claims of any Muhammadan officers who may be eligible will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

730 [V] *Question.*—In view of the paucity of Muhammadan Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars and of the observation made by the Secretary of State, in connection with the simultaneous examinations question, that Muhammadans possess an aptitude for administrative work, will Government be pleased to pick out a select few among the Muhammadan graduates already in the service and appoint them as Probationary Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars, after giving them the benefit of training under some competent Collectors?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—The Government, while willing and anxious to encourage administrative talent among Muhammadans, cannot consent to any such definite undertaking as that suggested in the Honourable Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

731 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. XV * and the answer thereto at the meeting of the Council, dated the 4th April, will Government be pleased to state whether G.O., No. 704, dated 19th September 1895, is intended to exempt from income-tax only pensions and other incomes earned and received *in* a Native State, but afterwards brought or remitted into British India?

(*b*) Whether upon the same principle, pensions and other incomes earned in a Native State, but paid and received *in* British India at a British treasury, are not entitled to exemption from taxation?

* 674 *supra*, p. 242.

(*c*) Whether Government will be pleased to cause a revision of the terms of the Government Order quoted above in view to the exemption therein allowed being extended to the pensions and other incomes of the kind referred to in clause (*b*) of this question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—With regard to clause (*a*) of the question, the G.O. of 19th September 1895, communicated under the orders of the Government of India as the rule to be acted upon, the opinion of the Advocate-General of Bengal in the case of a person who being employed in a Native State earns a salary, which is there paid to him, that such person is not liable to pay income-tax upon such salary or part thereof which he may bring into British India The cases mentioned in the Government Order are not cases of pension.

To clause (*b*) of the question, the answer is in the negative.

To clause (*c*) the answer is that the Government Order referred to by the Honourable Member merely communicated the instructions of the Government of India, which are not open to revision by this Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

732 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that plantain cultivation on the margins of the Cauvery and its branches in Trichinopoly, Tanjore and other districts is charged with water-rates, even where the flow of the water to the plantations is spontaneous?

(*b*) Is Government aware that water in such cases is injurious to the plantations and will Government be pleased to issue orders for the removal of the rates, if the answer to clause (*a*) of this question be in the affirmative?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) From inquiries made by the Board of Revenue it appears that as a general rule no water-rate is charged for the spontaneous flow of water to plantain gardens on the margins of the Cauvery and its branches. There appear to have been cases in the Mannárgudi and Máyavaram taluks of Tanjore where a charge has been made; and the Board has ordered an inquiry into these cases.

(*b*) The Government is not aware that water in such cases is injurious to the plantations.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

733 [VIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that rupees coined before 1840 are rejected in the railway booking offices?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Stationmasters are not authorized to refuse rupees coined before 1840 at booking offices of railway stations in this Presidency unless such rupees are of light weight. As however they have to make good any loss incurred through taking light or counterfeit coins, it is possible that individual stationmasters refuse these rupees to ensure being on the safe side.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

734 [IX] *Question.*—In view of the fact that Tahsildars are now compelled to keep horses, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the necessity of sanctioning a horse allowance to these officers, apart from the batta of one rupee per diem now allowed to them only for days they are out in camp?

(*c*) Were similar complaints made to the District authorities or Government on previous occasions against the same officer when he was Sub-Magistrate of Ottapidáram (Tinnevelly) regarding his unfitness to exercise magisterial functions, and, if so, with what results?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government has received no official information in the matter.

(*c*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. XXI * put by him at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 23rd November 1897.

* 568 *supra*, p. 214

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

743 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the sub-leader in the *Hindu*, dated 1st September 1898, headed "High-handed Proceedings by Revenue officials," and has Government made any inquiry into the matter referred to therein, and, if so, with what result?

(*b*) Is it a fact that whereas no arrear was due by the shrotriamdar o Mukundarayapuram (Wallaja—North Arcot), an arrear of 2 pies for fasli 1305 was claimed from him, and his land worth Rs. 30 was sold in auction for Rs. 6-8-0 on 16th May 1896?

(*c*) Did the shrotriamdar send two registered letters—one to the Tahsildar, and one to the Head Assistant Collector—on 11th May 1896 intimating that there was not a single pie in arrear against him, and that the sale advertised ought to be stopped?

(*d*) Was the auction sale nevertheless held on 16th May 1896 with the results mentioned in clause (*b*) of this question?

(*e*) Did the shrotriamdar give to the Collector notice of his intention to file a civil action against Government, and was any inquiry made by Government or the Board of Revenue upon the receipt of the notice of the intended action before the defence was sanctioned, and, if so, with what result?

(*f*) Was a civil suit subsequently filed by the shrotriamdar against Government in the Court of the District Munsif of Sholinghur, and decreed against Government with costs amounting to Rs. 22 and odd payable to the plaintiff, while his actual expenses amounted to nearly Rs. 400?

(*g*) If the facts are as stated above, does not the Government think that the shrotriamdar is entitled to some adequate reparation at the hands of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has obtained a report from the Board of Revenue on the subject from which it appears that it is a fact that the shrotriamdar obtained a decree with costs against the Government for Rs. 22 and odd. It further appears that the Board ordered an inquiry into the matter so long ago as May last, but that the inquiry has not yet been completed for want of certain records from the court of the District Munsif of Sholinghur. As the case has not yet been fully investigated, the Government is unable to say whether the facts are correctly detailed in the Honourable Member's question, or to make any pronouncement on the merits of the case.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

744 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a sub-leader in the *Madras Standard* of 12th August 1898 headed "Conduct of a High official," and did the Government move the High Court to make an inquiry into the allegations made therein againt M.R.Ry. V. Ramiengar, Manager, Appellate Side of the Court, and, if so, with what result?

(*b*) If the answer to the above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to move the High Court in view to an inquiry being made into the matter complained of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the article in question and is not prepared to take any action in the matter, which is one falling entirely within the province of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

745 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that Mr. Higgens, late Collector of Tinnevelly, was memorialized by the people of Srívilliputtúr and requested to arrange for the establishment of a Village Munsif's Bench Court at their station, and if so, with what result?

(*b*) If not, will Government be pleased to direct the necessary steps to be taken to establish a Bench Court at Srívilliputtúr.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is not aware of the submission of any such memorial, and considers that the matter may be left to the Collector who will no doubt take such action as is necessary.

The Hon'ble MR. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

746 [XXI] *Question.*—With reference to the observation, quoted in the margin of the Board of Revenue in its resolution embodied in G.O., No. 474, Revenue, dated 25th August 1898, is Government in a position to state whether any, and what, schemes are in contemplation to improve the sanitary conditions of the City of Madras?

"The highest district mortality (in fasli 1306 = 1896-97) continued to be recorded in Madras, and this is due, as remarked by Government, partly to the insanitary condition of the city, and partly to greater accuracy in registration."

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A scheme for the drainage of the city estimated to cost Rs. 31,81,000 is now under execution, and schemes for the improvement of water supply and for the purification of the Cooum are in contemplation.

The Hon'ble MR. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

747 [XXII] *Question.*—With reference to the statement of the Board of Revenue noted, on the margin, in its resolution (quoted in the above question) submitting its report on the settlement of land revenue in the Presidency for fasli 1306 (1896-97), has any inquiry been made into the abnormally high figures under "Deaths from cholera" during the fasli year ending 30th June 1897, especially in the districts of Coimbatore, South Arcot, Tanjore, Madura, Malabar, Ganjám, Tinnevelly, Salem and Trichinopoly?

"There were large increases under cholera and small-pox as compared with the previous year. Over 93,000, or seven times as many persons as in the previous year, died of cholera, no district enjoying absolute immunity from the disease."

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—No; the subject has been fully dealt with in the annual reports of the Sanitary Commissioner for 1896 and 1897, and the orders of Government thereon which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The pay of the Tahsildars was originally fixed with due reference to the fact that their duties require frequent touring within the limits of their taluks. In 1896 this Government moved the Government of India to grant to Tahsildars a special horse allowance of Rs. 15 per month, but the Government of India preferred that they should receive a daily allowance of one rupee for each day spent in camp. The Tahsildar's travelling allowance of one rupee per diem is thus intended to include the expense of keeping a horse or pony.

The Government is at present unable to recommend the grant of any further allowance on this account to these officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

735 [X] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. XX * asked at the meeting of the Council on the 4th April regarding the Trichinopoly water-works, is Government in a position now to state whether any, and what, steps have been taken to place the working of the system on a satisfactory footing?

* 679 *supra*, p. 244.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—Certain proposals have been made by the Sanitary Engineer for placing the working of the system on a satisfactory footing and they are under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

736 [XI] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. XXIV † on the same subject asked at the above meeting regarding an investigation into the causes of the failure of the water-works, and the answer of Government, will Government be pleased to state whether any investigation has been made, and if so, with what result?

† 683 *supra*, p. 245.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The question of appointing a Committee to investigate into the matter is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

737 [XII] *Question.*—With reference to the Hon'ble Mr. Jambulingam Mudaliyar's question No. LVII ‡ of 9th December 1896, and my question No. IX § asked at the meeting of the 23rd November 1897 regarding the equalization of the process-fees levied in the civil courts of all grades, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what decision has been arrived at?

‡ 480 *supra*, p. 155.
§ 576 *supra*, p. 209.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The matter is still under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

738 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Was any investigation ordered by Government into the origin and causes of the typhoid fever which prevailed last year and which again appeared in a more serious form this year at Ootacamund, and if so with what results?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to order the papers connected with the investigation, if any, to be placed on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 1571 M., dated 7th September 1898, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

739 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a correspondence which appeared in the *Hindu* of the 18th November 1898 to the effect that Mr. E. L. R. Thornton, Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, had issued in his capacity of President of the Taluk Board of Madanapalle a notice in the following terms :—

"Dr. Myler, Medical and Sanitary Officer, Cuddapah, will inoculate on Monday the 7th November 1898 at 8 A.M. those gentlemen that are willing to be inoculated. All members of the Taluk Board, Madanapalle, are requested to come without fail and be inoculated."

(*b*) Are the statements contained in the above correspondence true, and, if so, does the Government consider the proceedings of the officer judicious?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) No; but the attention of the Plague Commissioner was drawn to the paragraph at the time.

(*b*) The matter is under inquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

740 [XV] *Question.*—Has Government in contemplation to make a provision for the widow and children of the late M.R Ry. T. G. Sundaresa Iyer, Tahsildar of Hindupur (Anantapur), who was murdered at Kondaipur, when he was on plague duty, and has it called for any report upon the matter from the District officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Proposals for the grant of a provision for the widow and children of the late Tahsildar are under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

741 [XVI] *Question.*—With reference to the recent speech of His Excellency the Viceroy at the United Service Club's dinner in regard to the frequent transfers of district officers and the speech of His Excellency the Governor in the course of his tour in the Northern Circars in October last on the same subject—

(*a*) is the matter engaging the attention of Government? and

(*b*) is it in a position to hold out any hopes of redress in the near future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government is unable at this stage to make any announcement on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

742 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Sessions Judge of Tinnevelly, Mr. K. C. Manavedan Raja, has made the following observations in Sessions Case No. 54 of 1898, in regard to the conduct of Sub-Magistrate Mr. Padmanaba Iyer of Velathikolam in recording a confessional statement from a mother charged with the murder of her child :—

"Though ignorant of what occurred at the inquest, he (the Sub-Magistrate) puts his signature to the inquest report, and his explanation is that it is mamool. I am constrained to remark that the Sub-Magistrate appears to me to be unwilling to speak the whole truth, and further that he cannot be safely entrusted with the duty of holding an enquiry under chapter XIV."

(*b*) Has Government or the District authority taken any and what notice of the Sessions Judge's recommendation?

The Hon'ble MR. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

748 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the figures quoted on the margin in regard to the revenue sales made for arrears of land revenue for fasli 1306, and the observations of the Board of Revenue in its resolution submitting to Government its report on the settlement of land revenue for the above fasli, that the Collectors of Vizagapatam and Tanjore will be separately requested to report on the abnormal increases in the number of sales, has Government received any communication from the Board on the cause of the increases in question?

District.	Number of defaulters whose property was sold in	
	Fasli 1305	Fasli 1306
Tanjore	727	1,549
Vizagapatam	65	126
Trichinopoly	246	379

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to direct the papers on the subject to be placed on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(*a*) In reply to the first clause of the question the answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In answer to the second clause the expediency of placing the papers on the table will be considered when the correspondence is complete.

The Hon'ble MR. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

749 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to clause (v) of paragraph 13 of G.O., No. 476, Revenue, dated the 21st September 1896, resolving to notify that, after a certain date, candidates for the public service and school boys born in municipal towns should be required to produce attested extracts from birth registers, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what action has been taken in the matter?

(*b*) Was any draft notification submitted to Government for its approval by the Board of Revenue as desired in the paragraph of the Government Order quoted in clause (*a*) of this question, and, if so, what is the date from which the proposed rule was recommended by the Board to be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—In reply to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of the question, on further enquiry and consideration, the Government found that owing chiefly to defective methods of registration of births in Municipalities in the past, the Resolution referred to by the Honourable Member was attended with difficulties and could not be effectively carried out. It was therefore decided to abandon it for the present.

The Hon'ble MR. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

750 & 751 *Questions*—**750** [XXV].—With reference to clause (vi) of paragraph 13 of the G.O., No. 476, Revenue, dated 21st September 1896, quoted in the preceding question stating that the proposal made by Surgeon-Major-General C. Sibthorpe to calculate the number of birth and death registrars in municipal towns in proportion to the population and the area to be dealt with would be considered in the Local and Municipal Department, will Government be pleased to say whether the proposal has been considered in the Local and Municipal Department, and, if so, with what result?

751 [XXVI].—With reference to paragraph 13, clause (*x*) of the Government Order quoted in the preceding question, stating that the proposal made by Surgeon-Major-General C. Sibthorpe to offer special inducements to all municipal servants for reporting cases of unregistered births or deaths would be considered in the Local and Municipal Department, will Government be pleased to say whether the proposal has been considered in the Local and Municipal Department, and, if so, with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

750 } *Answer*—.The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 926 M., dated
751 } 17th May 1898, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble MR. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

752 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that, as yet, no appointment from the Imperial list of the Forest Service has been transferred to the Madras Provincial list in accordance with the reorganization scheme of the Forest Service introduced in 1891?

(*b*) How many officers are there in the Madras Branch of the Imperial Forest Service who have been recruited after the reorganization scheme had been sanctioned by the Secretary of State?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government of India has decided that no Deputy Conservatorship would be transferred to the Madras Provincial list until a certain number of Assistant Conservators, who have so entered, shall have been made Deputy Conservators? If so, what is the number of such officers, and about how many years hence is a vacancy in Deputy Conservatorships available for transfer to the Provincial list expected to occur?

(*d*) In view of the fact that the reorganization scheme put a stop to promotions from the subordinate staff to the Imperial Service, and of the fact that the home recruitment after the introduction of the scheme was readjusted so as to make it possible for transfers from the Imperial to the Provincial list being effected from time to time since 1891, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the Government of India has decided to postpone the claims of the Madras Provincial Forest Service in favour of officers recruited on the above basis?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to take such steps as it may deem fit for the early removal of the hardship thus caused to the Madras Provincial Forest Service under the decision of the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to clause (*a*) of the question is in the negative. One such appointment was transferred in July last.

(*b*) There are four officers who have been so recruited.

(*c*) & (*d*) With reference to clauses (*c*) and (*d*) of the question the recruitment for the Imperial branch of the Forest Service was reduced in 1894. Under the order issued by the Government of India for the formation of the Provincial branch of the upper controlling staff, no Deputy Conservatorship can be transferred from the *Imperial* to the *Provincial* list until the claims of all Imperial officers recruited in England in and prior to 1894 have been considered. There are at present nine such officers in the Forest Department in this Presidency who have not yet reached the grade of Deputy Conservator. The Government cannot foretell the number of years that will pass before the claims of all these officers will have been considered.

(*e*) The Government does not consider that the gradual introduction of the scheme can justly be deemed a hardship to the Madras Provincial Forest Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

753 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the fact that the Government of India has sanctioned the proposal of this Government to reserve five Civil Surgeoncies for Civil Assistant Surgeons, will the Government be pleased to state what steps it intends to take to give effect to its resolution at an early date?

(*b*) Has the Government considered the desire of the Government of India that a larger number of Civil Surgeoncies may be thrown open to Civil Assistant Surgeons and, if so, will it be pleased to state its decision?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps it intends to take, agreeably to the wishes of the Government of India, in order to raise the pay and allowances of the Civil Assistant Surgeons so as to assimilate their position and prospects to those of the other Provinces ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The whole subject is now under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

754 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government has been discountenancing appointment of non-officials as Municipal Secretaries ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and how many non-officials as Municipal Secretaries it has approved ?

(*c*) In view to efficient control by Municipal Councils over their officers and in view to their realizing and undertaking the full responsibility of administration imposed upon them by law, will the Government be pleased to leave them free in the choice of their Secretaries and not to exercise the power of vetoing such appointments except in very special cases ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) The Government has approved the appointment of four non-officials as Municipal Secretaries.

(*c*) The Government is not prepared to leave the choice of Secretaries entirely to the discretion of Municipal Councils, nor will it interfere unnecessarily with such appointments.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

755 [XXXI *] *Question.*—With reference to the motion brought forward at the meeting of the Council held at Ootacamund on the 13th June last, that the Select Committee appointed thereat to consider the Madras Tenancy Bill be requested not to hold its sittings for a period of four months from that date, and with reference to the observations of the Hon'ble Mr. C. S. Crole, then in charge of the Bill, for not accepting the motion, that " the reason for taking up this Bill was that it was in an advanced stage and there is no reason why we should not go on with it," will Government be pleased to state when the Select Committee will submit its report and whether there is any likelihood of the Bill coming before the Council for consideration during this session ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—Government is not in a position to say when the Select Committee will submit a report ; nor is it able to say when the Bill will come before the Council for consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

756 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that in May last Messrs. Hogg and Francis, of the 4th Hussars, Secunderabad Division, came for shikari purposes to the Chintalapudi division in the Gódávari district and set fire to a reserved forest at Mankinavarigudem, about 12 miles off Chintalapudi, and that they were ordered to be prosecuted for the said act by the District Forest officer ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the result of the proceedings instituted against them ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that, on the same occasion, they went to Chintalapudi and that, at about 8 P.M on the 17th May, one of them, Mr. Francis, accompanied by some armed servants, entered the compound of the Deputy Tahsildar of Chintalapudi during the absence of the said officer, and, without any sufficient cause, beat his cook and peon, who were then attending on his sleeping children ?

* Question XXX was withdrawn at the meeting by the Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar.

(*d*) Is it a fact that, at about 10 P.M. on the same day, Mr. Hogg broke open the door and entered into the house of the Deputy Tahsildar and insulted the Deputy Tahsildar by using foul language and by other acts, and that when the police came, Mr. Hogg's attendants, about ten in number, who had accompanied him with arms on the occasion, drew their swords, presented their guns and threatened to fire, and that Mr. Hogg created disturbance in spite of the presence of the local officers including the hospital assistant, the sub-registrar, the forest ranger, and the inspector of police and others,—all because the village officers apparently failed to meet instantly the demand of Messrs. Hogg and Francis to be supplied with some men and cots, which the Deputy Tahsildar had ordered the village officers to supply as soon as he received intimation of the same ?

(*e*) Whether Government is aware that the conduct of Messrs. Hogg and Francis under the colour of the British uniform created a commotion in the village and that the police were helpless on the occasion ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Tahsildar brought the above circumstances to the notice of the District Collector and Magistrate, Gódávari, and asked for permission to prosecute Messrs. Hogg and Francis at the expense of the State, and that the said District Collector and Magistrate either declined to grant permission as requested or recorded the report of the Deputy Tahsildar ?

(*g*) If Government is not in possession of the facts mentioned above, will Government be pleased to call for a report in the matter and take such steps as it may consider proper to maintain the prestige and dignity of the offices held by its civil officers at Chintalapudi ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject, but a report will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

757 [XXXIII] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., No. 1747, Judicial, dated 28th August 1893, calling the attention of the District Collectors to the remarks of Mr. G. T. Mackenzie, I.C.S., then District Judge, Kistna, upon the unsatisfactory preparation of the lists of assessors and jurors under the Code of Criminal Procedure, and to the importance of exercising discrimination in the selection of men to perform the important duties entrusted to them under the Act, will Government be pleased to state what improvements have been effected since in the preparation of such lists and what specific rules regarding property, educational or other qualifications have since been adopted for the guidance of Tahsildars and village officers who are called upon by the District Collector to prepare the lists ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Local Government is not in a position to issue rules at variance with the provisions of chapter XXIII of the Criminal Procedure Code. If the Honourable Member will himself attempt to frame any general rules declaring the property, educational, moral and other qualifications of a juror or assessor, he will probably become alive to the wisdom of the legislature in refraining from enumerating disqualifications other than those mentioned in section 278, Criminal Procedure Code. Discretion must be left where section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code vests it, viz., in the Sessions Judge and Collector of the district.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

758 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether Government is aware that during the current year the price of opium in the Gódávari district, which consumes more than half the quantity of opium imported into the Presidency, largely as medicine for several complaints, has risen by nearly 50 per cent. a tola now selling at 8 annas

against about 5 annas in previous years, thus causing an additional burden of 3 lakhs of rupees per annum on the district, particularly on the poorer classes who form the bulk of consumers?

(*b*) Whether Government is aware that this rise in the price of opium is due to a change in the vend of the opium monopoly of the district by selling it for three years instead of for one and to a single individual instead of several in ranges, thus stifling healthy competition and against the spirit of the rules framed by the Board of Revenue, and that the above change was made without any notice to the public?

(*c*) Is it a fact that an application of an Agency renter to import a larger quantity of opium within the Agency tracts was refused by the District Collector, thus compelling Agency renters to buy opium from the sole monopolist of the non-Agency tracts?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state on what grounds the said change was made in the policy of the sale of the opium in the district and why the application of an Agency renter was refused?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the above change of policy meets with its approval?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government is aware that, owing to combination among the former renters at the auction sales, the Board of Revenue leased the privilege of vend of opium for three years. The Government has no information on the other questions put by the Honourable Member.

The Government has approved the Board's action, which is in accordance with rule XXXV of the rules under the Opium Act. A maximum price of two tolas per rupee was fixed for retail sales.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

759 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what has become of the Report of the Select Committee on the Madras Tenancy Bill?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to publish the report of the Committee with the covering letter of Mr. C. S. Crole in the Gazette?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it will furnish the Members of the Council with a copy of the report and the letter at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member will be referred to the answer given to question No. XXXI.*

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

760 [XXXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount spent in the Public Works Department Accounts department under the head of the Presidency allowance?

(*b*) How many Accountants draw the house allowance in Madras and what are their salaries?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a saving could not be effected and efficiency secured by deputing the high-paid Accountants to mufassal stations?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it will insist in future that all candidates appearing for the Accounts Branch should have passed some University Examinations?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Rs. 7,846 was spent during 1897-98 inclusive of one Examiner (in whose case the allowance amounted to Rs. 768).

(*b*) At present the number of Accountants drawing Presidency house-rent, inclusive of Accountants attached to Head-quarters Executive divisions, is 19. The salaries are—

2 Accountants, 1st grade, on a salary of Rs. 500 each.
3 Accountants, 2nd grade—2 on Rs. 340 each ; 1 on Rs. 300.
3 Accountants, 3rd grade, on Rs. 250 each.
5 Accountants, 4th grade—2 on Rs. 240 each ; 3 on Rs. 200 each.
1 Accountant, 5th grade, on Rs. 150.
2 Accountants, 7th grade, on Rs. 80 each.
3 Accountants, 8th grade, on Rs. 60 each.

(*c*) Only a small saving would be effected as other Accountants would have to take their place who would also be entitled to Presidency house-rent, as sanctioned by the Government of India, but efficiency would certainly not be secured.

(*d*) No, as the examinations for the Accounts Branch are regulated by the Government of India, and not by the Local Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

761 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many times the Competitive Examination for the selection of candidates for Probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police has been held in this Presidency?

(*b*) How many were selected in each examination?

(*c*) How many applied for the examination this year?

(*d*) How many were admitted?

(*e*) To what nationalities they belong?

(*f*) Is there any rule that at least three candidates should present themselves for the examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) } An examination is now in progress and this is the first which
(*b*) } has been held.

(*c*) Seven.

(*d*) Three candidates were nominated.

(*e*) British.

(*f*) No.

26. MEETING OF THE 24TH JANUARY 1899.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

762 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to G.O., No. 690, Educational, dated 7th November 1898, and the notification issued by the Principal of the Law College at Madras thereunder on the 25th *idem*, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government Order and the notification are intended to apply retrospectively to the students who joined the college in the first term of 1898, and whether such students will not be permitted to commence their studies for the B.L. course in the second term of the current year, without passing their F.L. Examination?

(*b*) If the answer to the above clause be in the affirmative, whether Government will be pleased to take into consideration the hardship which will be entailed on the students, who joined the college in the first term of 1898 in the full belief that they would be permitted, under the rules then existing, to complete their B.L. courses independent of their passing the F.L. Examination, and to exempt such students from the operation of the new rule?

(*c*) Is there any objection to making the Madras Law College a full-time institution like the Presidency College and other colleges, in view to reducing the F.L. and B.L. courses from three to two years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government Order and the notification will apply to the students who joined the college in the first term of 1898. These students will not be permitted to commence their studies for the B.L. course in the second term of 1899, unless they pass the First Examination in Law.

(*b*) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to paragraph 5 of the Annual Report of the Law College, embodied in G.O., No. 608, Educational, dated 29th September 1898, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

It will be seen therefrom that the change adopted is in the best interests of the students themselves. Of those who joined the college in the first term of 1898, such as may fail at the F.L. Examination in May next will, by repeating the F.L. course of lectures, be better grounded and more likely to pass the examination next year, than if they were allowed to proceed with the B.L. course. The B.L. class will also materially benefit by being confined to *bona fide* B.L. students.

For these reasons it is not considered desirable to exempt the students mentioned in the question from the operation of the new rule.

(*c*) Government in 1896 had under consideration proposals to work the Law College as a full-time institution, but did not think it practicable to introduce the change. Nor is Government at present prepared to make any alteration in the existing conditions.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

763 & 764 *Questions*—**763** [II]—With reference to the statement published in the *Tanjore District Gazette* for September 1898 showing that 37 plots of land, measuring 136 acres and assessed at Rs. 296, were sold for arrears of Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances attending the sale and furnish the Council with information as to why no one offered to bid, and Government was obliged to purchase the lands for a nominal price?

764 [III].—With reference to similar statements published in the *Tanjore District Gazette*, dated the 20th October 1898 and 1st December 1898, showing that 28 plots of land, measuring 51·11 acres and assessed at Rs. 59-2-0, and 57 plots, measuring 76 acres and assessed at Rs. 203, respectively, were sold for arrears of

Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to enquire into the circumstances attending the sales and furnish the Council with similar information as is requested in the preceding question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

763 } *Answer.*—The Hon'ble Member is requested to be good enough to
764 } repeat his questions at the next meeting. *

* 782 and 783 and 818 and 819 *infra*, pp. 281 and 294 respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

765 [IV] *Question.*—In view to the diffusion among the masses of the knowledge of sanitary laws, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of making compulsory the study of sanitary primers in the primary and lower secondary departments and of advanced treatises in hygiene in the upper secondary and collegiate departments?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Hygiene and Elementary Science is an optional subject of study in primary and lower secondary standards from the third standard upwards. Next to Geography the largest number of pupils that passed in the third and fourth standards in 1897-98 was in this subject, as will be seen from paragraph 80 of the last Public Instruction Report. At the Primary Examination of 1897-98 it was brought up by the largest number of male and female candidates. Considering the importance of other branches of study and considering also how popular the subject is under existing conditions, the Government is not prepared to curtail the freedom of managers of primary and lower secondary schools in the selection of subjects of instruction. The subjects to be taught in the upper secondary department are already sufficiently numerous and taxing and their number cannot be added to without omitting some portion of the present curriculum. The University by-laws regulate the course of instruction in colleges, and it is open to the Honourable Member to address the Syndicate on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

766 [V] *Question*—Is Government in a position to furnish the Council with any information regarding the contemplated reorganization of the Registration department, and when the proposed scheme is likely to be brought into force?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The answer to the Hon'ble Member's question must be in the negative. A scheme for the reorganization of the department is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

767 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the correspondence which appeared in the *Madras Standard*, dated the 17th September 1898, under the heading "Madura—Union Chairman," and will Government be pleased to state if the allegations contained in it are correct?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that the Union Chairman of Elayangudy (Madura)—Mr. Sikandar Vava Ambalagar, who was also the village munsif of the place—was compelled by the President of the Taluk Board of Sivaganga to resign his Chairmanship on pain of being dismissed from his post of village *munsif*?

(*c*) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which such an unusual step was taken by the President of the Taluk Board?

(*d*) If Government be not in possession of the necessary information, will it be pleased to call for a report upon the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the correspondence in question, but has no official information in the matter. A report will be called for from the President of the District Board.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

768 [VII] *Question.*—With reference to the orders of Government passed upon a memorial by some inhabitants of Mylapore last year as regards certain alleged injurious effects of the junction canal on people and property in the vicinity, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the reports submitted to Government by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, the Board of Revenue, and the Surgeon-General, and the final orders thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is informed that the reports called for from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Revenue Board have not yet been submitted to Government. No final orders on the subject have therefore been passed.

The orders of Government mentioned by the Hon'ble Member, and the Surgeon-General's report in reply, will be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

769 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government perused the correspondence appearing in the *Madras Standard*, dated 21st May 1898, headed "Penukonda," and is it in a position to state if there is any truth in the allegations contained in it regarding the procedure of the Head Assistant Magistrate said to have been adopted against the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Penukonda?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Stationary Sub-Magistrate withdrew the adverse comments which he had recorded in his judgment against the evidence of the Head Assistant Magistrate's butler, who had been examined as a witness for the prosecution, in deference to the latter officer's remarks?

(*c*) If Government is not in possession of any information on the matter, will it be pleased to call for a report from the District Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the news letter referred to, but has received no official information in the matter. Assuming the facts to be correctly reported, it is not alleged that the comments of the Divisional Magistrate in any way affected the course of justice, and the Government considers it sufficient that the attention of the District Magistrate should be drawn to the questions put by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

770 [IX] *Question.*—Has the attention of the Government been called to a resolution of the Indian National Congress passed in its last meeting held in Madras that it is desirable to relieve the District and Municipal Boards from all liability to contribute towards the expense of administering the plague regulations and rules?

Will the Government be pleased to consider this question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is unable to relieve the Local Bodies from contributing a fair share of the plague charges.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

771 [X] *Question.*—Is it a fact that fines realised from convictions for offences against the plague regulations and rules are credited to the Provincial fund? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of allotting portions of these fines to the District and Municipal Boards in proportion to the charges incurred by those bodies in the administration of the plague measures?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Yes; as the fines in question are levied under the Indian Penal Code, they are credited, as all other fines under that Code are, to Provincial funds under the head of Law and Justice. The Government is not prepared to accept the Hon'ble Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

772 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Medical officers who have been specially entertained to perform duties in connection with the plague are now employed in the Madras General Hospital or elsewhere for other duties?

(*b*) If so, how many such officers are there?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state when it will be possible for it to dispense with the services of the Medical officers who have been so entertained?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes; but the attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the reply to clause (*b*) of his question No. XXVIII * asked at the meeting of the Council held on 13th May 1898, in which he was informed that the officers in question had been engaged for general as well as plague duty.

(*b*) Five, in addition to nine officers newly arrived who, pending further orders, are temporarily attached to hospitals at the Presidency.

(*c*) This depends chiefly upon the progress of the plague, and the Government is unable to say when it will be possible to dispense with their services.

* 735 *supra*, p. 269.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

773 [XII] *Question.*—From the experience obtained since the creation of the office of the Madras Plague Commissioner, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is absolutely necessary to continue the office and whether the duties now performed by the Plague Commissioner may not be curtailed and performed by the existing permanent machinery of the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

774 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state under what circumstances the recent notification relating to the Madras Law College has been issued, under which the time of instruction in the College has been altered so as to include in it the hours of ten to eleven o'clock in the morning and four to five o'clock in the evening?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the students who joined the College in 1897 and 1898 had no notice at the time they joined the institution or prior to it that any such alteration would be made?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that several of these students hold appointments in Public service and elsewhere, for whom it would be impossible to attend the College between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning and between four and five o'clock in the evening?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the majority of the Professors and Assistant Professors of the College find that the altered hours of instruction, namely, ten to eleven o'clock in the morning and four to five o'clock in the evening, are very inconvenient to them and that, as a matter of fact, they do not attend the College during those hours?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the attendance of the students of the Law College is sometimes marked for hours when no instruction is given? If so, will the Government be pleased to call for information under what circumstances and authority this is done, and for a statement of such hours in the year 1898 showing also whose duty it was to give instructions during those hours?

(*f*) In view to obviate the hardship and inconvenience caused alike to the students and to the majority of the teaching staff by the notification in question, will the Government be pleased to direct that the whole matter be reconsidered?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*f*) The change was made by the Director of Public Instruction on the recommendation of the Principal and of the College Council. The Government does not consider it necessary to interfere with the exercise of the Director's discretion in this matter.

(*b*) *to* (*e*) The Government is unable to admit the force of the arguments implied in these portions of the question.

27. MEETING OF THE 9TH MARCH 1899.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

775 [I] *Question.*—With reference to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner who writes in his report for 1896 regarding Karúr (Coimbatore), that "the sub-soil of the town is saturated with soakage from cess-pools, and as typhoid is a recognized disease in this town, it need not be assumed that solely malarial fever was dealt with," will Government be pleased to state whether any and what steps have been ordered to be taken to remedy the state of things in the above place?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 14 of G.O., No. 1705 L., dated 6th September 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

776 [II] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state in how many towns water-works have been introduced, and in how many of these drainage works have been completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Water-works have been completed in Madura, Dindigul, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Conjeeveram, Cuddapah, Adóni, Kurnool and Ootacamund and are under construction in Tirupati, Vizagapatam and Cocanada. Drainage works have been completed in Coonoor and Kumbakónam.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

777 [III] *Question.*—With reference to the marginally-noted observations of the Sanitary Commissioner in his report for 1896, will Government be pleased to take steps to induce the Municipal Councils referred to by that officer to give up the old wells and tanks in favour of the public water-supplies introduced into their towns?

"No other than a mediocre result from sanitary works in this Presidency can, however, be expected, so long as they are not constructed so as to involve, not the major portion of towns but the whole, so long as the facilities afforded are not such as to permit free use of the water by the inhabitants in all parts of the town and at all times of the day; and above all, so long as the Municipal Councils persist in retaining the old wells and tanks which the public water-supplies should have replaced."

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Municipal Councils of towns in which public water-supplies have been introduced will be called upon to report what action they propose to take with respect to old wells and tanks.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

778 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the fact that out of 47,847 deaths from cholera in the whole Presidency of Madras during 1896 no less than 10,731 deaths occurred in the single district of Coimbatore alone, will Government be pleased to state whether the cause of the severity of the epidemic in that district has been ascertained?

(*b*) If so, will it be pleased to lay on the table the papers on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The severity is ascribed by the Sanitary Commissioner to the transmission of the cholera microbe by water-courses and by contamination of the unprotected drinking water sources in villages as a result of the insanitary habits of the uneducated classes of the people.

(*b*) The Sanitary Commissioner will be requested to forward to the Hon'ble Member the correspondence on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

779 [V] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether any satisfactory explanation has been found of the fact that only 4,390 villages out of a total of 44,678 in the whole Presidency were affected, although cholera prevailed in every district in 1896, and although in point of their sanitary condition the villages that suffered differed little from those that escaped ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—In the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, the statement that in point of their sanitary condition the villages that suffered from cholera in 1896 differed little from those that escaped, appears to be open to question.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

780 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. XXVI * asked at the meeting of the Council of the 23rd November 1897, and the reply of Government that the train service referred to will receive its attention, will Government be pleased to state whether the alterations in the passenger train service on the South Indian line notified on the 6th February 1899 to take effect from the 10th idem have been approved by Government ?

* 593 *supra*, p. 216.

(*b*) Whether, in view of the fact that the altered service subordinates the interests of the travelling public of the Negapatam-Tanjore section to the convenience of the inhabitants of Karaikal, Government will be pleased to reconsider the matter and make such arrangements as may satisfy the reasonable requirements of Karaikal without prejudicing the interests of a large population of an extensive tract of country in the Negapatam-Tanjore section ?

(*c*) Whether Government is aware that by the above altered service the people of Negapatam and those residing on the Negapatam-Tanjore and Peralam-Tiruválúr sections have been placed in a much worse position than they were on the 23rd November 1897 when the question referred to in clause (*a*) was asked, inasmuch as, instead of a mail service connection with Madras by a shorter route on the Máyavaram-Muttupet line prayed for, even the mail service connection with Madras by the longer route which was then in existence for outgoing passengers to that city (mail train No. 145) and the one for passengers returning from it (train No. 119) have been now abolished ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There is no question of subordinating the interests of Negapatam to those of Karaikal. It is always difficult to arrange a limited number of trains per day in a complicated system of cross lines like those under reference, so as to satisfactorily secure all desired connections.

(*c*) The serious decrease in the number of passengers which has recently occurred has rendered it necessary to cancel one train per day from Peralam to Negapatam and another from Negapatam to Tanjore. The cancelling of these two trains has undoubtedly resulted in the journey between Negapatam and places north of Máyavaram occupying a longer time than before. But a very limited number of passengers has been affected, only 9 per day in one direction and 3 per day in the other during January last, the busiest time of year. The Consulting Engineer is in correspondence with the Company's Agent with a view to the public convenience being better served if possible, but it is not an easy matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

781 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which influenced it in converting Negapatam, which had been for a long series of years the head-quarters of a Sub-Collector, into a Head Assistant's division ?

(*b*) Whether, in view of the importance of the varied interests of the Negapatam division, such as Sea-Customs, Port, Marine, Shipping Trade, Emigration, Land Customs, and of the circumstance that the place is the seat of a growing Railway workshop, and of a large European community which renders the presence of a Justice of the Peace necessary, Government will be pleased to revert to the old arrangements, and make it a Sub-Collectorate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The last redistribution of divisional charges in the district of Tanjore took place in 1882. Its object was to apportion more equally the work of the divisional officers. By it Negapatam was made the head-quarters of the Head Assistant Collector.

No change has been made in the charges of the Sub-Collector and Head Assistant Collector of Tanjore for upwards of 16 years. The three taluks comprising the Sub-Collectorate were, and still are, one of the heaviest divisional charges in the Presidency. The Hon'ble Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that a Head Assistant Collector cannot be a Justice of the Peace. The Government sees no sufficient reason to reconsider at present the status of the Negapatam divisional charge.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

782 & 783 *Questions*—**782** [VIII*].—With reference to the statement published in the *Tanjore District Gazette* for September 1898 showing that 37 plots of land, measuring 136 acres and assessed at Rs. 296, were sold for arrears of Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances attending the sale and furnish the Council with information as to why no one offered to bid, and Government was obliged to purchase the lands for a nominal price ?

* Same as 763 and 764 *supra*, p. 274, and 818–819 *infra*, p. 294.

783 [IX].—With reference to similar statements published in the *Tanjore District Gazette*, dated the 20th October 1898 and 1st December 1898, showing that 28 plots of land, measuring 51·11 acres and assessed at Rs. 59–2–0, and 57 plots, measuring 76 acres and assessed at Rs. 203, respectively, were sold for arrears of Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances attending the sales and furnish the Council with similar information as is requested in the preceding question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

782 } *Answer.*—The matter is still under investigation. The Hon'ble
783 } Member is requested to be good enough again to repeat his questions at the next meeting † of the Council.

† 818–819 *infra*, p. 294.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

784 [X] *Question.*—With reference to Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 308 (Land Revenue), dated the 16th November 1898, promulgating certain rules for calculating the capitalized value of all permanent periodical payments to or by Government, under which in the case of such dues payable to Government the capitalized value shall be not less than thirty times the annuity, but which in the case of dues payable by Government shall not be more than twenty times the annuity, will Government be pleased to move the Government of India in view to placing both the cases on a footing of equality ?

mere requisitions for payment, are made out by the village officers and sent to the Tahsildar for signature and issue. The primary responsibility for their correctness rests upon the village officers; and the modified procedure which is being tried will not only enforce this responsibility, but save much delay in the issue of process as well as unnecessary scriptory work.

(*b*) The authority has been conferred tentatively on all village headmen in the districts of Bellary, Kistna, Tanjore and North Arcot, and the Collectors of these districts have been already instructed by the Board of Revenue to report on the 1st June next how the experiment works.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

791 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the suggestion made by Diwan Bahadur R. Raghunatha Rao Avargal in the columns of the *Madras Mail*, dated the 11th instant, on the subject of "Police torture"?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of adopting his suggestion and forming a separate section of the Police for the custody of under-trial prisoners as distinguished from a detective and prosecuting section in view to minimizing the evils frequently complained of regarding extortions of confessions by the Police?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the letter.

(*b*) In the opinion of Government, no scheme of the kind suggested is practicable.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

792 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the proportions or the mode in which the plague charges are now being distributed among Provincial, Local and Municipal funds?

(*b*) What kinds of charges are now borne by the Provincial funds, and what by the Local Boards and Municipalities, and also what proportion to the total cost the charges from the Provincial funds bear?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) The following are the principles on which expenditure in connection with plague in this Presidency for the present is being distributed between Provincial and Local and Municipal funds:—

(i) A broad distinction has first been made between *direct* and *indirect* charges, this distinction being based on the same principles as those which regulate famine expenditure, viz., when new appointments are created exclusively for plague duty, the charges are treated as *direct*, but when new appointments are made merely with the object of strengthening existing establishments to cope with the additional work caused by plague, the charges are treated as *indirect* and debited to the ordinary service heads. The *indirect* charges therefore follow the classification of the accounts and are Provincial, Local, or Municipal, according as the cost of the establishments which are strengthened are debited to these several funds.

(ii) The next main principles which have guided this Government in the distribution of plague expenditure are that all charges incurred on account of superior medical officers, the magistracy and the police and the cost of telegrams and all other precautionary charges incurred by Provincial departments are debited to Provincial funds; while the cost of subordinate medical staff, hutting, medical appliances and the like and all expenses incurred at plague camps and inspection stations are charged to Local and Municipal funds. The Governor in Council has further decided to contribute from Provincial funds half the cost of

construction of private plague hospitals and private segregation camps, as also maintenance grants for the same not exceeding half the actual expenses.

(iii) It has also been laid down that travelling and other allowances and all contingent expenditure on stationery, postage, telegrams, office furniture, etc., shall be charged against the heads of account to which the salaries of the officers drawing the allowances or incurring the expenditure are respectively debited.

(iv) The following are the main items which constitute *direct* Provincial plague charges in this Presidency:—

(1) Medical officers on plague duty.
(2) Medical assistants for plague charge of a taluk or a smaller area.
(3) Superior medical officers in charge of plague inspection stations.
(4) The emoluments of staff corps officers employed as special plague officers.
(5) Superior nurses.
(6) Contributions to private hospitals and segregation camps.

(v) The *direct* Local and Municipal charges consist principally of the following items:—

(1) Establishments entertained for railway and road frontier inspection stations.
(2) Observation staff consisting of plague supervisors, plague inspectors, assistant plague inspectors and their peons.
(3) Ambulance staff.
(4) Superintendents of camps, gumastahs and menial servants.
(5) Cost of stretchers, medical stores, disinfectants and comforts, hospital furniture and clothing.
(6) Cost of construction of plague hospitals and "observation", "suspect", "health" and "staff" camps, whether at inspection stations or elsewhere.

(vi) It has also been directed that the expenditure falling on District Boards should be distributed between all the districts of the Presidency in the ratio of one-third in frontier districts proper (*i.e.*, those districts which adjoin or are nearest to the plague-stricken areas) and of one-fourth in districts in which there are railway inspection stations against the district in which the expenditure is incurred, the remaining two-thirds or three-fourths, as the case may be, being contributed by the other districts of the Presidency rateably to their annual receipts.

(*b*) The first part of this question has been replied to in (*a*). As regards the second part, the most recent estimates of plague expenditure for the current year stand as follows:—

	Rs.
Provincial—	
Direct	2,01,290
Indirect	58,775
Total ..	2,60,065
Local—	
Direct	4,47,720
Indirect	6,130
Total ..	4,53,850
Municipal	2,98,910
Port and Marine Fund	1,344
Grand Total ..	10,14,169

The proportion borne by Provincial funds to the total cost is therefore 25·64 per cent.

The Honble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The rules in question were promulgated by the Government of India and the Governor in Council does not consider that it is necessary to move that Government in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

785 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the accretions to the river margins formed by the action of the current are under the control of the Public Works Department or the Revenue Department?

(*b*) Is Government aware that such lands formed as *Padugai* on the margins of the Cauvery and its branches have been dealt with by the Public Works Department without reference to the Revenue Department, and leased out for the rearing of bamboo and other shady growths which affect injuriously the cultivation and crops of the adjoining landholders?

(*c*) Where the land is scooped out by the action of the current of a river at one point and formed at another, does not Government think that the owner of the former land has a reasonable claim to the latter?

(*d*) If Government is not in possession of the required information, will it be pleased to direct a general enquiry into the matter, and call for a report on such cases in the villages of Alavandipuram, Tenampadugai, Pápanasam and Govindagudy, &c., in the taluk of Kumbakónam?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The practice varies according to the character and extent of the accretion and other circumstances.

(*b*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative. If a landholder's crops are injuriously affected in the manner stated, he should represent the matter to the Revenue or Public Works Department authorities concerned.

(*c*) The rights of parties in cases of alluvion and diluvion are regulated by law and custom. The Hon'ble Member's question does not admit of a categorical answer.

(*d*) The Government can see no sufficient reason for directing a general inquiry into the matter. It has recently called on the Board of Revenue to report whether it is desirable to define more clearly than is at present the case the circumstances in which poramboke lands on the margin of rivers or irrigation works under the control of the Public Works Department may be leased out by that department.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

786 [XII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which the Director of Public Instruction has thought fit to refuse recognition to the Mahant's Hindu Union School at Vellore?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is misinformed. The Mahant's School, Vellore, was recognised by the Director of Public Instruction in January last.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

787 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the views expressed by Dr. Miller in the *Christian College Magazine* of July 1898, on the Lower Secondary Examination, in which he says, *inter alia*, that "from the very beginning of a boy's training both pupils and their teachers are almost irresistibly induced to give exclusive attention not to the intelligent reception of knowledge, not to the development of mental power or the formation of healthy mental habits, but to the filling the memory with what is likely to pay in an examination in other words, to cramming," and that the existing evil state of matters "cannot be radically cured so long as boys are driven to a public examination at an age when its effects upon their mental attitude and upon the whole development of both intellect and character can hardly, in the very nature of the case, be less than fatal?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the question is engaging its attention, and whether it proposes to apply a remedy to the evils pointed out?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 789, Educational, dated 24th December 1898, reviewing the report of the Director of Public Instruction for 1897–98.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

788 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. VIII * asked at the meeting of the Council on the 1st February 1898, and the reply to it, and in view of the fact that the number of deaths from small-pox in 1896 in the Presidency was so large as 9,410, in which no district enjoyed entire immunity, will Government be pleased to state whether the recommendation of Surgeon-Major W. B. Bannerman to appoint two Assistant Inspectors of Vaccination "to inspect the verification work of the deputies, and so impose a wholesome restraint on the dishonest practices which at present prevail to too large an extent in the department" will be taken into favourable consideration at an early date?

* 633 *supra*, p. 229.

(*b*) If the recommendation referred to in clause (*a*) of this question has not been received yet, will Government be pleased to call for a report upon the suggestion?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The subject will receive attention when the present financial pressure is over.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

789 [XV] *Question.*—In view of the inability expressed by the Municipal Councils and Local Boards to start schools on their own account for the education of deaf-mutes and blind persons from want of funds in response to the circular issued to them in March 1898 by the Director of Public Instruction, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirablity of establishing such institutions in some central locality at its own cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 176 of the Report on Public Instruction for 1897–98.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

790 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to G.O., No. 680, Revenue, dated the 14th November 1898, and the Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 351, dated the 20th December 1898 (Land Revenue), will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it has been found necessary to transfer the power to issue distraint notices No. I under Madras Act II of 1864, hitherto exercised by the Tahsildars, to village headmen?

(*b*) If Government has decided to try the experiment of the change, will it be pleased to call for reports from the District officers at the close of the current fasli as to the way in which the new procedure has been working?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The change referred to by the Hon'ble Member was decided upon by the Government as an experimental measure. In accordance with the prevailing practice the distraint notices, which in the first instance are

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

793 [XIX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for the supply of serum for plague inoculation, and whether sufficient supplies are available for use in the affected districts and those adjoining them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—Fifty-five thousand doses of M. Haffkine's prophylactic have been obtained, and arrangements have been made to obtain a further supply from time to time. A sufficient supply is available for use in the affected districts and those adjoining them.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

794 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether inoculations are being performed in the plague-affected Municipalities of Walajapet, Vellore, Vániyambádi, Tirupati and Bellary, &c., and in the affected districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, North Arcot, and Salem ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to place at the disposal of the press statistics of the uninoculated persons, attacks and deaths, among them, and of the once and twice inoculated, attacks and deaths among them, respectively, in the places and tracts referred to in clause (*a*) of this question.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this question is generally in the affirmative ; but the towns of Vániyambádi, Tirupati and Bellary are not considered plague affected.

(*b*) No attempt has yet been made in this Presidency to classify the statistics of attacks among inoculated and uninoculated persons.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

795 [XXI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether its attention has been drawn to a leading article in the "Madras Standard" of the 25th February 1899 (evening edition) under the heading "Principal of the Law College and Students—Mr. Nelson's threats—", in which Mr. R. A. Nelson, Principal of the College, is stated to have threatened students suspected of supplying information to the newspapers concerning the irregular attendance of the College Principal and Professors with instant dismissal and a more rigorous application of the College rules in regard to attendance and the keeping of the terms, to discourage such complaints being communicated to the papers ?

(*b*) Whether the occurrences narrated in the article are true ?

(*c*) Whether, if so, it will kindly take such steps as it may deem fit in view to preventing the recurrence of similar incidents.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Government has read the article referred to, and has been informed that the article gives an exaggerated and misleading account of what took place. The Principal told the students that any complaints they had to make should be made to the proper authorities ; and that it was a breach of discipline, rendering them liable to dismissal, to make these complaints to the Press. No threat was held out to the students, that if such complaints were made to the Press, the College rules as to attendance and keeping of terms would in future be more rigorously applied.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

796 [XXII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) When a special officer was last appointed to revise the District Manuals and how long he was on the special duty ?

(*b*) What was the original allotment of money made in this behalf and what was the actual amount expended ?

(*c*) How many District Manuals have been revised by the special officer and how many Manuals so revised have been printed and issued ?

(*d*) Whether, in view of the importance of issuing District Manuals revised up to date, it intends to take any and what steps to complete the work for which the special officer was appointed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) For the purpose of revising and re-issuing the District Manuals of this Presidency, Mr. H. A. Stuart, I.C.S., was placed on special duty at first for a year from 29th March 1893 and this period was subsequently extended by six months. For five months of this period, however, Mr. Stuart acted first as Collector and subsequently as District Judge.

(*b*) A total sum of Rs. 50,000 was allotted for the purpose and the expenditure to date has been about Rs. 41,200. In the sum spent is included a portion of Mr. Stuart's salary as Acting Collector and Acting District Judge.

(*c*) The Manuals for North Arcot, South Canara and Volume II (Statistics) for Coimbatore have been completed and issued. The statistical portions relating to the remaining districts have been to a great extent revised and are partly in type. The remaining portions of the manuals containing the permanent information about each district have been revised and are partly in type for Coimbatore, Kistna, Madura, Chingleput, Tinnevelly and Trichinopoly.

(*d*) Mr. Stuart has collected a large quantity of material for the other districts also and has undertaken to continue the revision in addition to his own duties. The Government considers that the work will be best done by Mr. Stuart and is not prepared at present to take any further steps to hasten its completion.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

797 [XXIII] *Question.*—It is a fact that the annual import of the Bombay light salt into this Presidency is gradually increasing and becoming more popular with the consumers than the salt manufactured in this Presidency ? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of revising the rules relating to the manufacture and sale of salt so as to create facilities for the production of light salt in this Presidency ? Will it be pleased to state further what other steps it deems necessary to take, in view to make the competition of the Madras salt with Bombay salt more successful in future and to protect the salt revenue ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the Report on the Administration of the salt revenue for 1897-98, which shows that, during the last three years the import of the Bombay salt into the Ceded districts of this Presidency has on the whole increased. In 1895-96 the imports were 153,500 maunds ; in 1896-97, 138,370 maunds ; and in 1897-98, 176,200 maunds. In Mysore, Bombay salt has displaced Madras salt more rapidly. The feasibility of producing light salt in this Presidency is under consideration. The salt revenue being Imperial is not affected.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

798 [XXIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is now in a position to say what steps it intends to take in view to give effect to the recommendations of Mr. Nicholson, I.C.S., regarding establishment of agricultural banks?

The Hon'ble Mr Forbes :—

Answer.—Mr. Nicholson's report is still under consideration; and orders on it may be shortly expected.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

799 [XXV] *Question.*—In view of the general complaint that the state of management of the Hindu religious and charitable endowments is very unsatisfactory and in view of the fact that the question of fresh legislation on the subject has been long occupying the attention of the Government and the public, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirablity of early passing a suitable law in reference to this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The question of the expediency of legislating for the better protection of Hindu religious endowments is at present under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

800 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that one or two more vacancies may be shortly expected to occur in the Madras High Court in consequence of other Judges than Mr. Justice Davies going home on furlough?

(*b*) What is the present state of file of arrears of cases in the High Court? Is it a fact that the rate of disposal and outturn of work in the High Court are gradually becoming greater than in previous years?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to take advantage of this opportunity to consider what should be the full permanent complement of Judges, whether five or six?

(*d*) If the Government thinks it necessary that the High Court should continue to consist of six Judges, will it be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing an Indian to the sixth judgeship and further to consider whether it would not be in the advancement of justice to provide for two Judges of the High Court, an Indian and Englishman, visiting from time to time the District and Subordinate Courts and hearing cases in such centres in the mufassal as may be convenient?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham : —

Answer.—(*a*) Yes. There will be a vacancy when Mr. Justice Shephard avails himself of the leave granted to him.

(*b*) The Government has no information, but a copy of a statement showing the state of the file up to 31st December 1898 will be laid on the table. The outturn of work has undoubtedly increased since the appointment of a sixth Judge.

(*c*) & (*d*) It has already been arranged that the question of the future strength of the High Court shall be reconsidered on the occurrence of the next permanent vacancy. It is not in contemplation to appoint circuit Judges.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

801 [XXVIII *] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to the article published in *The Madras Times* in its evening issue of the 17th February last under the heading "A tale of a devotee—A regrettable incident"?

* Question XXVII was withdrawn at the meeting by the Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar.

(*b*) Is it a fact that the devotee mentioned in the article was arrested under a non-bailable warrant?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the offence of which he was accused was hurt, a bailable offence?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the man was released on bail on being produced under the warrant before the Máyavaram Magistrate who had issued the warrant?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to direct an enquiry why the Magistrate of Máyavaram did not provide in the warrant for the release of the man on bail by the officer executing the warrant?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the article in question, and will call the attention of the District Magistrate to the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

802 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state which of the listed appointments declared open to the Provincial Service are now permanently held by members of that service?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state approximately when the claims of the members of the Indian Civil Service will be satisfied with regard to one of the Under Secretaryships to Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to page 81 of the Civil List, from which it will be seen that the following posts have been transferred permanently to the Provincial Service in this Presidency :—

One post of Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
Three posts of Head Assistant Collector.
One post of Special Assistant Collector.
One post of Assistant Collector.

In addition to the foregoing, the following listed posts are held permanently by Statutory Civilians :—

One post of District and Sessions Judge.
One post of Collector.
One post of Sub-Collector.

(*b*) Under present circumstances, a post of Under Secretary to Government will be open to the Provincial Civil Service after the claims of all members of the Indian Civil Service down to and including those who arrived in 1887 have been satisfied with regard to posts of equal or similar standing. Before, however, this post can be transferred to the Provincial Civil Service if there is an officer of the required merit and ability in that service to fit it, it will be necessary that it should be vacated in due course by the officer who may be holding it at the time it becomes open to the Provincial Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

803 [XXX] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state how many, and what, appointments not reserved to the Indian Civil Service are now held in this Presidency by members of that service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The following appointments, which are not reserved by statute for members of the Indian Civil Service, are now held in this Presidency by members of that service :—

Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
Inspector-General of Police.
Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

Postmaster-General.
Registrar, High Court.
Deputy Commissioner, Salt, Abkári and Customs Department.
Deputy Accountant-General.
Assistant Secretary to Government.
Deputy Registrar, High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

804 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that even when they are at head-quarters, District Collectors in some districts do not attend office but transact business and dispose of appeals and other matters of judicial nature at their residence ?

(*b*) Has this practice been brought to the notice of Government and does it meet with its approval ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state what instructions, if any, it has issued to District Collectors in the above matter and place the same on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) No such practice has come to the notice of the Government.

(*c*) It is a standing order that all public officers should, when at head-quarters, as a general rule, attend office from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

805 [XXXII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to obtain and place on the table a statement showing the number of suits decided during 1897 by the Bench Courts constituted under section 9 of Act I of 1889, and if the information for preparing such a statement is not available, will Government be pleased to issue instructions that such information should be obtained and embodied in future in the Administration Report on Civil Justice in the Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information as to the number of suits decided by Bench Courts during 1897, and it regrets that it cannot undertake the very laborious task of collecting it. The possibility of affording information of this description in future reports on the administration of Civil Justice will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

806 [XXXIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state when the scheme to reorganize the class of Delta Superintendents in the Department of Public Works is likely to be brought into force ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The question of reorganizing the Irrigation Conservancy establishment is at present held in abeyance, pending further enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

807 [XXXIV] *Question.*—In view of the fact that in the construction of the Madras Railway no provision has been made at important stations for latrine accommodation for first and second class Indian passengers and also for refreshment rooms for all classes of Indian passengers, will Government be pleased to take necessary steps for providing such accommodation for the convenience and comfort of Indian passengers on the Bezwada-Madras and East Coast Railways recently opened for through traffic ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The East Coast Railway, including the Bezwada Madras Section of it, is administered by the Government of India and not by this Government. The matters referred to by the Honourable Member have however been brought to the Government of India's notice in a recent report by the Senior Government Inspector of Railways, Madras Circle.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

808 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the answer of Government to question No. XXX * at the meeting of the Council held on 1st February 1898, that the reason why the enhanced water-rate of five rupees an acre was imposed on lands held on zamindari or inam tenure in Gódávari and Kistna districts, was that "they were on the whole more favourably circumstanced" than the neighbouring ryotwari lands, exempted in some instances from the enhanced rate, will Government be pleased to state what it means by their being "*more favourably circumstanced.*"

* 654 *supra* p. 235.

(*b*) Is it a fact that there are several lands in the said districts held on zamindari or inam tenure that deserve to be exempted from the enhanced rate but for the circumstance that they were favourably assessed at the time of the permanent settlement or at the enfranchisement of inams, and has Government made any enquiry into the matter ?

(*c*) If Government is not in a position to answer the above in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to order an enquiry whether there are any zamindari or inam lands that deserve to be exempted from the enhanced rate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government approved the imposition of the rate on the report of the Collector that the zamindari and inam lands which are favourably assessed should not be exempted from the enhanced rate anywhere.

(*b*) & (*c*) The remedy open to persons who deem Rs. 5 per acre an excessive charge for irrigation is to relinquish the water. This being so, Government does not consider that any zamindari or inam land "deserves" to be supplied at a lower rate.

Government sees no sufficient reason at present to institute the proposed enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

809 [XXXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following resolution passed at the Kistna District Conference in June 1897 and what orders have been passed thereon :—

"XXI. That this Conference re-affirms the Resolution XIII of Gudiváda Conference, and while expressing the satisfaction and thankfulness of the people of a very small number of villages in which a four-rupee rate has been levied as before in consideration of the poverty of the soil and other circumstances in those villages, regrets that a complete examination has not yet been made of a very large number of other villages containing similarly poor soil to a greater or less extent and requests that the lower rate of assessment may be levied on all lands of inferior quality in every village."

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state how many villages in the Kistna strict have been exempted from the enhanced rate and place on the table a list of h villages ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state whether an examination of the s in the Kistna district was made by any officer of Government, whether a report ch examination was submitted to Government and whether Government passed thereon ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the report and order of ment thereon in the said matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the resolution of the Kistna District Conference. Government does not generally pass orders on such resolutions, and no orders were passed on the resolution in question.

(*b*) The number of villages exempted from the enhanced rate is 61. The list will be placed on the table as desired.

(*c*) The selection of the villages to be exempted was made by the District Collector with the help of his subordinates, and was sanctioned by Government on his recommendation. As has been repeatedly explained * to the Honourable Member, the exemption is merely a temporary expedient and does not profess to be based on a detailed examination of the circumstances of every field. Government hopes to be shortly in a position to pass orders on the scheme for the resettlement of the district, and the necessity for any special exemption will then cease.

(*d*) The reply to this is in the negative.

* 257 and 654 *supra*, pages 99 and 235, respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

810 [XXXVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Council table papers relating to the several proposals made by the local Muhammadan Educational Board as regards Muhammadan education and the action taken by Government thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member may peruse the papers at the Government office.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

811 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct the more extensive nomination of Muhammadans as members of the Village Panchayats, Local Boards and Municipal Councils, seeing that the majority of the electors belong to the other communities?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has no reason to believe that the Muhammadan Community does not at present enjoy a fair share of representation in Union Panchayats, Local Boards and Municipal Councils. The system of election is in force only in regard to District Boards and Municipal Councils.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

812 [XXXIX] *Question.*—From the General Administration Report for 1896–97 it appears that out of 6,308 Muhammadans in the Public Service, 5,348 are employed in the Police department. If the latter number includes any constables, head constables and station-house officers, will the Government be pleased to state the number in each class?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The figure referred to doubtless includes constables, head constables and station-house officers, but the Government has no information as to the precise number of Muhammadans employed in each of these grades.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

813 [XL] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what check is exercised in the matter of securing a proper consideration of the claims of Muhammadans in the subordinate branches of service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—Government has, from time to time, expressed its desire that endeavours should be made to increase the number of qualified Muhammadans in the public service. The consideration of the claims of individual Muhammadans must necessarily lie with heads of departments and Government cannot limit the discretion of those officers in such cases. The extent to which Muhammadans are employed in superior service is, however, noted annually in the general administration report.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

814 [XLI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to reserve a certain proportion of appointments for qualified Muhammadans in each branch of service as the system appears to have been introduced in the Bengal Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government has no information regarding the system said to have been introduced in Bengal, and having regard to the interests of the public service, is not prepared to adopt the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

815 [XLII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing a Muhammadan for the post of the Inspector-General of Registration when the next vacancy occurs, seeing that the appointment has been successively held by representatives of the other communities?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The qualifications of all candidates for the appointment will be duly considered, but the Government cannot undertake to give the preference to a member of any class in particular.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

816 [XLIII] *Question.*—Is it a fact that on the representation of the Muhammadan population of Trichinopoly the Government was pleased to assure them that their claims for a proper representation on the local Municipal Council would be borne in mind and allowed two nominated seats to them? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether this number has been kept up? In consideration of the large Muhammadan population in this town, will the Government be pleased to always reserve two nominated seats as requested by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government stated that the claims of the Muhammadan population would be borne in mind whenever appointments were made on the Municipal Council, but did not undertake to reserve two nominated seats for them. Nor is it prepared to do this now as suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

817 [XLIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which have led to the system of commutation of Carnatic stipends of small value which is now in force?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to reconsider its order as regards commutation after calling for a special report from the Paymaster, Carnatic Stipends, as to the effect which that system has produced on the Carnatic family?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The compulsory commutation of Carnatic stipends of small amounts was introduced in the interests of the stipendiaries themselves.

(*b*) The Government sees no reason for reconsidering the existing rules.

28. MEETING OF THE 7TH APRIL 1899.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

*Same as 763 and 764 and 782 and 783 *supra*, pages 274 and 281, respectively.

*** 818 & 819** *Questions.*—**818** [I].—With reference to the statement published in the *Tanjore District Gazette* for September 1898 showing that 37 plots of land, measuring 136 acres and assessed at Rs. 296, were sold for arrears of Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances attending the sale and furnish the Council with information as to why no one offered to bid, and Government was obliged to purchase the lands for a nominal price ?

819 [II].—With reference to similar statements published in the *Tanjore District Gazette*, dated the 20th October 1898 and 1st December 1898, showing that 28 plots of land, measuring 51·11 acres and assessed at Rs. 59-2-0, and 57 plots, measuring 76 acres and assessed at Rs. 203, respectively, were sold for arrears of Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances attending the sales, and furnish the Council with similar information as is requested in the preceding question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

818 } **819** } *Answer.*—The reports received from the Collector and his Divisional officers will be laid upon the table for the Honourable Member's information. He will see therefrom the trouble which has been taken to collect the information which he requires, and how difficult it is to frame a concise and comprehensive answer to his questions. To take a single instance, in which a block of 82 acres of dry land in the village of Vittalâpuram assessed at Rs. 164 was bought in by Government for one anna. Enquiry shows that the assessment was increased at the settlement by only 16 per cent.; that the land is Samudâyam or held jointly by 101 pattadars, of whom 78 are Brahmins and 23 are Kallars. It is reported that the pattadars cannot agree amongst themselves as to how the land should be cultivated or divided, and as not one of the persons interested has raised any objection to the sale of the land for arrears, it appears probable that the sale was brought about by all or some of the shareholders as the readiest means of freeing the land from Samudâyam claims.

The Deputy Collector gives several instances in which the defaulting pattadars had mortgaged the lands to their full value and in which the sale was due to the mortgagees taking no precautions to protect their own interests by arranging for the payment of the assessment. In some cases the assessment of the land sold is actually less than it was prior to settlement. In many cases the lands are poor and on the margin of profitable cultivation.

In accordance with Kallar tactics, these lands are often darkhasted for in small patches by substantial ryots *benâmi* in the names of relatives or dependants who have no property. A crop is harvested, the assessment is not paid, and when the land is put up to sale and bought in by Government, the only loser is the State. The practice referred to largely accounts for the fact that a great number of defaulting Kallar pattadars only hold pattas to the value of two or three rupees. The Collector and his Divisional officers are of opinion that it may be generally affirmed that the sales are not a consequence of over-assessment, and it should be remarked that the areas sold are after all inconsiderable. As at present advised, Government does not intend to pursue the enquiry further.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

820 [III] *Question.*—With reference to the statement published in the Supplement to the *Tanjore District Gazette*, dated the 20th January 1899, containing the particulars noted on the margin in regard to certain revenue sales in that district held for realizing arrears of land revenue, will Government be pleased to institute a similar enquiry to the one suggested in the above questions, and favour the Council with information as to the causes which led to the sales fetching such exceedingly small or almost nominal prices ?

(i) A piece of land measuring 5·03 acres and assessed at Rs. 20-2-0 was sold for Rs. 10-8-0.
(ii) A piece measuring 5·03 acres and assessed at Rupees 22-12-0 was sold for Rs. 2.
(iii) A piece measuring 10·48 acres and assessed at Rupees 47-3-0 was sold for Rs. 55-1-0.
(iv) A piece measuring 3·07 acres and assessed at Rupees 13-13-0 was sold for Rs. 5.
(v) Nine pieces of land measuring 4·12 acres and assessed at Rs. 10-8-0 was purchased by Government itself at one anna per lot.

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—No information has been collected regarding the plots referred to in this question, but it may at once be remarked that in most cases the land sold lies in villages forming part of the Talanayar group which are actually below the mean sea level, and in which boats are used for harvesting the special sorts of paddy which will alone grow in such swampy land. The land is thus probably on the margin of profitable cultivation. In the absence of any complaint by the pattadars concerned Government does not, as at present advised, consider it desirable to consume further time in local enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

821 [IV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government perused the complaint published in the *Hindu*, dated the 9th February 1899, in the correspondence columns on the "transmission of goods by the railway" over the signature of one Bangi Candi Batcha Sahib ?

(*b*) Is there any truth in the statements made by the correspondent complaining of the reduction of quantity in the contents of bags, or the substitution of inferior articles in the place of valuable goods during transit and while in custody of the Railway Company ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to take steps to redress the complaint by causing an alteration of the existing B Form Risk Note which the consignors have to execute, and thus ensuring the liability of the Railway Companies in cases of the kind specified in clause (*b*) of this question ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government cannot say; but it may be safely admitted that consignments despatched by rail do not invariably arrive uninjured or untampered with at their destination.

(*c*) The use of Risk Note B by the consignor is entirely optional with him. By its use he secures the advantage of a special reduced rate on account of the consignment being carried at owner's risk. It is open to him to use the ordinary Forwarding Note under which consignments are carried at the risk of the railway. If a consignor sees fit to speculate by using an optional Risk Note, he must doubtless expect to lose sometimes as well as to gain.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

822 [V] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which the Municipal Council of Chidambaram has been called upon to pay to it an annual water-cess of Rs. 1,300 for the supply of water to the tanks in that Municipality, and the circumstances in which the Municipality of Cuddalore is obliged to pay a similar cess to Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—There are eleven tanks in the Chidambaram Municipality which are filled up three times a year by water from the channels from the Veeranum tank of the Lower Coleroon anicut system. The capacity of these tanks is about 12,363,856 cubic feet and the quantity of water annually supplied is therefore about 37,000,000 cubic feet. The Cuddalore Municipality is supplied from a sluice in the Kondangy tank, which is regulated by the Municipality, but the quantity of water taken by it is not known. As there is no valid reason why these Municipalities should not pay for the water supplied to them from Government sources of irrigation as is done by several other Municipalities in this Presidency, it was decided in November 1898 that they should pay for the water at the rate of 1,000 cubic yards per rupee, which is the rate paid for Government water by the other Municipalities referred to above, but that in view of the unsatisfactory state of their finances, the charge should not be made until the 1st April 1900, the Municipalities being free to cease taking water from this source and to cease paying for it when they have organized their own water-supply. The Municipal Councils having subsequently made a representation that their funds are reduced to a very low ebb owing to the demands on them on account of famine and plague, the question of the further postponement of the date from which the charge should be made is now under consideration in the Local and Municipal Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

823 [VI] *Question.*—In view of the recent decision of Government to reserve the Principalship of the Mangalore College to the European Educational Service, will Government be pleased to take steps to transfer the Vice-Principalships of the Teachers' College and the College of Agriculture to the Provincial Educational Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is mistaken in supposing that the Government has decided to reserve the Principalship of the Mangalore College to the Indian Educational Service. In G.O., No. 120, Educational, dated 24th February last, a copy of which has been placed on the Editors' Table, it was decided that an English graduate should be appointed as headmaster of the college; but the post will still be included in the Provincial Educational Service, and the Government is not prepared to take steps in the direction suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

824 [VII] *Question.*—In view of the frequent complaints regarding the working of the Madras Law College and the adequate salary attached to its Principalship, will Government be pleased to reconsider its decision granting permission to Mr. R. A. Nelson, the Principal, to engage in private practice and to withdraw the concession?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared at present to make any statement on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

825 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government perused the correspondence headed "Plague Scandal at Tadpatri" in the evening edition of the *Madras Standard* of the 18th March 1899, and will it be pleased to state whether the complaints made therein regarding the treatment of passengers by the plague officers are true or substantially true?

(*b*) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to issue orders in view to the prevention of the recurrence of such complaints?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the correspondence referred to. A report will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

826 [IX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it has directed that the rules regarding indentification by finger-print impressions should be applicable to political pensioners?

(*b*) Whether, in view of the circumstance that the order is felt as an indignity, Government will be pleased to re-consider it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The rules were made applicable to political pensioners in order to facilitate the identification of such pensioners.

(*b*) The Government is not prepared to reconsider the order nor is it prepared to concede that any ground exists for regarding compliance with the rules as an indignity. Exemption from the rules is granted when there are special circumstances calling for such exemption.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

827 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any rules now in force for the grant of pensions, gratuities or compassionate allowances to officers and servants in the service of Municipal Councils and Local Boards?

(*b*) If there are no such rules in operation in Municipalities or Local Boards or in both, will Government be pleased to direct the adoption of the necessary measures in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to notifications Nos. 375 and 376 published at pages 186 to 188 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 25th August 1891, and to the rules relating to the establishment of Provident funds for the benefit of Local Fund servants sanctioned in G.O., No. 623 L., dated 31st March 1898, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

828 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Civil Assistant Surgeons appointed to act as Civil Surgeons or as District Medical and Sanitary Officers, who had hitherto been drawing a deputation allowance of Rs. 100 in the case of 2nd and 3rd class officers and Rs. 150 in the case of 1st-class officers in addition to their substantive pay, have been directed to draw from the middle of January 1899 only an allowance of Rs. 70?

(*b*) Whether, in view of the recent resolution of the Government of India to better the status of this class of officers, Government will be pleased to take steps to continue their old deputation allowances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The change has been ordered by the Government of India, and it is not in the power of this Government to continue the former scale of allowances.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

829 [XII] *Question.*—Whether Government is now in a position to give a definite reply as to when the five Civil Surgeoncies thrown open for the Civil Assistant Surgeons will become available for them?

(*b*) Whether Government will be pleased to avail itself of the occasion afforded by the retirement of Major Patch of the Indian Medical Service, District Medical and Sanitary Officer of Kurnool, to create a vacancy in one of the Civil Surgeoncies now held by a commissioned officer of the Indian Medical Service by transferring the latter to the place of Major Patch, and make the Civil Surgeoncy thus vacated available for one of the first class and Senior Civil Assistant Surgeons?

(*c*) Whether the number of the Civil Surgeoncies available for Civil Assistant Surgeons will be increased as proposed by the Government of India, and if so whether Government will be pleased to state when this is likely to be carried out?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) It is impossible to say when Civil Assistant Surgeons will be appointed to the five posts of Civil Surgeon for which they are eligible. Before the claims of Assistant Surgeons can be considered, the posts must be vacated in the ordinary course by the present incumbents.

(*b*) The question will be considered when arrangements are made for filling up the vacancy at Kurnool.

(*c*) The Government is not aware that any proposal has been made by the Government of India for increasing the number of Civil stations in this Presidency available for Civil Assistant Surgeons.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

830 [XIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state whether the question of legislation in view to declaring ancient zamindaris impartible and inalienable is engaging its attention, and, if not, will it be pleased to consider the desirability of initiating legislation upon the subject in order that ancient estates may be preserved from ruin and ruinous litigation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to the Honourable Member's question is that legislation for the purpose stated is in contemplation.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

831 [XIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that in the taluk of Palladam (Coimbatore) certain inam wet lands, which have been cultivated with double crops from time immemorial free from all tax except the quit-rent, have been ordered during the current fasli to be assessed for the second crop with retrospective effect from the time of the last settlement, *i.e.*, for the past 20 years?

(*b*) Whether such assessments with retrospective effect for a long series of years are legal?

(*c*) Whether in view of the hardships resulting to landholders by being called upon to pay the dues for long periods, which they never expected, will Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made into the circumstances of the case referred to in clause (*a*) of this question, and whether, in the event of the statement being true, Government will see fit to issue instructions for the cancellation of these retrospective assessments?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Collector of Coimbatore reports that the answer to this question is in the negative.

(*b*) & (*c*) With reference to the reply to clause (*a*) of the question, these parts of the question require no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

832 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which Mr. J. G. Kernan has been appointed both as Clerk of the Crown and Official Assignee of the Court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors at Madras?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on the subject. Mr. Kernan was already Clerk of the Crown when he was appointed Official Assignee in 1894. The latter appointment was made by the Honourable the Chief Justice of the High Court under 11 and 12 Victoria, Chapter 21, section 14, and is not under the control of Government.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

833 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that at the 41st mile on the road from Calicut to Wynaad a bridge toll is levied on carts, etc., by the District Board of Malabar to cross the Vatapuram bridge, and that at the 45th mile, *i.e.*, at a distance of four miles from Vatapuram bridge, a ferry rate is levied to cross the Karimbola stream?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the District Board of Malabar realizes a sum of about Rs. 3,000 annually by lease of the above ferry across the Karimbola stream?

(*c*) Is it a fact that substantially-built masonry piers and abutments of an old bridge called Karimbola bridge are in existence, and that the said bridge could be restored at a small cost, thereby dispensing with the need for the ferry, which is now in use, and the levy of ferry charges?

(*d*) In view to prevent the hardship caused by the levy of two tolls within a distance of four miles and to render travelling easier and safer, will the Government be pleased to consider the feasibility of restoring the Karimbola bridge and advise the District Board to take up its restoration at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A report will be called for from the President of the District Board.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

834 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what progress, if any, has been made up to date in the Chepaud irrigation project in the Cuddapah district (branch canal from the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal)?

(*b*) Is it a fact that all work has been postponed for some time, but that an establishment is being maintained in connection with the project? What is the cost of such an establishment?

(*c*) In view to the great importance of irrigation in the dry taluk of the Cuddapah district, which the project is intended to benefit, will the Government be pleased to direct the early completion of the work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) An approximate estimate, amounting to Rs. 3,65,000, having been sanctioned, the Chepaud project was undertaken as a famine-relief work in April 1897 and was stopped in October 1897, when the rains set in. Work to the value of Rs. 33,389 was done.

(*b*) In December 1897 instructions were issued that the work should be proceeded with as an ordinary work, but as the sanctioned plans and estimates were useless except for carrying out some earthwork for famine relief purposes and the alignment of the channel has been altered, it will be necessary to draw up the whole project afresh without any assistance from the plans and estimates sanctioned. To facilitate the completion of the work the employment of a special draughtsman on Rs. 100 per mensem for two months in the Superintending Engineer's office has just been sanctioned.

(*c*) On receipt of the revised estimates for the project orders will be issued for its early execution.

The distance from Shiyali to Negapatam is 51 miles and the rate works out to annas 2 pies 4 per bag which is equal to Rs. 17 per 6-ton truck load.

(*d*) As the minimum rate laid down by the Government of India is in no case infringed, this Government sees no reason to interfere.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

841 [XXIV] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. XXI* asked at the meeting of the Council, dated the 13th May 1898, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what arrangements have been made for sending up to the Paris Exhibition of 1900 specimens from this Presidency in weaving, ivory, sandal and metal-works, marble-carving and agriculture, &c.?

* 718 *supra*, p. 256.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the Rules and Regulations relating to the British Indian and Ceylon Section of the Paris Exhibition, 1900, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 28th March 1899, at pages 1 to 6 supplement.

The Indian Section of the Exhibition will be divided into three Courts:—

(*a*) *The Imperial*, in which the exhibits of the Government of India and of Native States will be shown;

(*b*) *The Private Exhibitors*, in which the more artistic productions of Indian manufacturers, merchants and others will be displayed; and

(*c*) *The Commercial*, in which the trade and economic samples will be exhibited.

The selection of the exhibits to appear in the Imperial Court rests with the Government of India. Intending exhibitors in the other two Courts should apply for any information they may require to the Official Agents of the Indian Committee of the Exhibition, Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, London, or any of the branches of the Firm in India or to the Sub-Agents Messrs. T. N. Singh & Co., Fen—Church Avenue, London.

The Hon'ble Mr VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

842 [XXV] *Question.*—(*a*) In reference to its decision that an English graduate should be appointed to the headmastership of the Mangalore College in accordance with the original desire of the subscribers and with the vote of the great majority of those who have now been consulted in the matter and that this arrangement may be followed when it is reasonably within the power of Government to effect it, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in possession of the reasons on which the original desire of the subscribers and the vote of the majority were based and, if so, what those reasons were?

(*b*) Is it a fact that 61 out of 74 persons have voted for a European graduate of an English University, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the expression in the decision, namely, "an English graduate", is in accordance with the vote?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the headmastership was, at the recent reorganization of the Educational Department in India, included in the Madras Provincial Educational Service, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the necessity for re-opening the question?

(*d*) In view of the fact that this post is henceforth lost to the Provincial Educational Service of Madras, is it the intention of Government to consider the desirability of transferring to the service a similar appointment from the European Educational Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is not in possession of the exact reasons on which the original request of the subscribers and the vote of the majority for an English graduate as headmaster of the Mangalore College were based, but the subscribers appear to have been impressed with the advantage of having a well-educated gentleman, a graduate of an English University, at the head of the college in order to give effect to the desire existing among the inhabitants of Mangalore for English education of a higher class.

(*b*) Yes; the expression "an English graduate" in G.O., No. 120, Educational, dated 24th February 1899, is meant to denote a European graduate of an English University.

(*c*) Yes; it is not intended to re-open the question.

(*d*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question No. VI*.

* 823 *supra*, p. 296.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR:—

843 [XXVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact, as stated in the *Madras Standard* of 8th March, that the Principal of the Law College was, the previous day, unable to attend the class between four and five o'clock in the afternoon in consequence of his professional engagement in the High Court?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the new hours of attendance in the Law College cause great inconvenience to students as well as to the Principal and Professors?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Principal and Professors have in practice altered the hours of attendance to suit their own convenience?

(*d*) Is it a fact that numbers of students have left the College since the introduction of the new time-table? and if so, how many? Will the Government be pleased to state what is the present strength of the students in the College when compared with the average strength for each of the past five years?

(*e*) Is it the intention of the Government to consider the desirability of re-adjusting the hours of attendance in the College?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the scheme submitted by the Director of Public Instruction for converting the institution into a day College together with the orders of the Government thereon and other connected papers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) It is a fact that the Principal of the Law College did not give the lecture referred to owing to a professional engagement in the High Court. Previous notice was given that there would be no lecture, and the lecture was delivered on the following day.

(*b*) The Government is informed that the new hours cause no inconvenience to the Principal and Professors. The hour 10 to 11 is found inconvenient by students employed in offices; such students are allowed, as far as practicable, to attend during the evening hours only.

(*c*) The Government is informed that this is not the case. The hours of attendance are fixed by the Principal within the limits laid down by the rules.

(*d*) The number of students who have left the College since the introduction of the new time-table is reported to be three. Of these, one was detained in Mysore owing to plague regulations and another has become a teacher and has therefore given up his law studies. It is not known why the third has left.

The strength of the College on the 31st March 1899 was 417. On the same date in the previous five years, the figures were 591, 630, 731, 620 and 612. In former years, students were allowed to join the College in March immediately after the publication of their B.A. degree results. This year some of such students will not join until July, so that a proper comparison cannot be made till then.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

*Same as 709 *supra*, p. 252.

*835 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of revenue realized by the Commissioner of Police on licenses granted for the use of music in processions of Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the City of Madras during the year 1897-98 ?

Is the Government aware that till 1888, no license fees for performing music were charged for applications from Hindu temples and Muhammadan religious institutions, that in 1888, a fee of four annas only was charged for the whole period of an occasional festival lasting for several days, and that subsequently a fee of four annas was collected for each day of a festival lasting for more than a day ?

Is the Government also aware that from 1888 fees were charged only on the occasion of special festivals as described above, and that till 1895, no license fee was required for daily customary ceremonies accompanied with music, and that since April 1895, a daily license fee of four annas is levied for the daily customary ceremonies and also additional fee of four annas for every day of an occasional festival ?

Will the Government be pleased to state if all the various collections of fees from temples and other religious institutions stated in the last two clauses are in pursuance of orders of Government or any authority, and will the Government be pleased to place on the table all orders in connection with the collection of such fees ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the matter of music in the same position as they were before 1888 by exempting such institutions from the payment of any fees and granting free licenses when required ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report said to have been called for in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*c*) A copy of the Commissioner's report which affords the information required will be placed on the table.

(*b*) The matter is now under consideration by Government.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JUMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

836 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the District Munsif's Court at Vayitiri in the Wynaad taluk is closed annually for two months instead of six weeks owing to the very unhealthy condition of that station ?

(*b*) In view to the notoriously unhealthy condition of Cuddapah town and taluk generally, and to mitigate to some extent the great hardships suffered by the court officials and litigant population by reason of a severe type of malaria in the cold months (not yet subsided in this year) and the intense heat in the hot months, will the Government be pleased to direct the Munsif's Court of Cuddapah to be closed for a period of two months along with the District and Sessions Court instead of for six weeks only as at present ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government cannot interfere in the matter, which is left, by section 30 of Madras Act III of 1873, to the discretion of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

837 & 838 *Questions*—**837** [XX].—Will the Government be pleased to state if it has now under consideration any scheme or schemes for the irrigation of the Bellary district from the Tungabhadra and Hagari rivers or other sources ? Will it be pleased to give some information as to any such schemes under contemplation ?

838 [XXI].—Will the Government be pleased to state if any orders have been passed on the report regarding Bellary irrigation said to have been pending disposal in answer to questions Nos. III and IV * asked by me at the meeting of the Council of 13th May 1898, and if so, to publish the same ?

* 700 and 701 *supra*, p. 249.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

837 } **838** } *Answer.*—On a consideration of the reports submitted on the problem of using water from the Tungabhadra and the Hagari for the irrigation of the more arid parts of Bellary, a further detailed investigation was ordered in September 1898, the result of which is embodied in G.O., No. 222 I., dated 8th March 1899, a copy of which will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

839 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a statement contained in the letter of Gooty correspondent to the *Hindu* newspaper printed in its issue of 18th March 1899, page 5, to the following effect regarding plague inspection at Tadpatri station :—

"Men of low caste and of no caste are employed to fetch water and pour on the heads of healthy passengers who have to sit in a row for the ablution at the camp. *Brahman widows* would not be allowed to have their own water to bathe, no doubt mixing with it the necessary disinfecting powder. No plague officials would not grant the prayer."

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to issue strict injunctions to inspecting officers to respect caste scruples to the utmost possible extent to ensure the continuance of the smooth working of the regulations ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the letter in question. A report will be called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

840 [XXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the goods traffic rates in force on the South Indian Railway, has the Company been permitted to charge comparatively very much cheaper rates for rice consigned to Ceylon *viâ* Tuticorin than those charged for the same commodity consigned through other coast ports ?

(*b*) Have these cheaper rates been adopted in view of the longer lead which the Company obtains to Tuticorin ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage by which the rates in the case of Tuticorin are less than those obtaining in the case of other coast ports ?

(*d*) In view of the circumstance that favourable rates in the case of one port operate prejudicially to other ports, will Government be pleased to issue instructions for the adoption of an uniform scale of rates applicable to consignments through all ports equally ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The attention of the Government has already been invited to the fact that the South Indian Railway are quoting through rates for rice consigned to Ceylon *viâ* Tuticorin from certain stations. Enquiries have been made and it is found that in no case does the South Indian Railway share of the through rate infringe the minimum rate laid down by the Government of India.

(*b*) It is customary on all Railways to quote a lower rate per maund per mile as the lead increases.

(*c*) Taking Shiyali, which is about the centre of the South Indian Railway rice trade to Colombo, the distance thence to Tuticorin is 282 miles and the Railway share of the through rate is annas 7 and pie 1 per bag which is equal to Rs. 31-14-0 per 6-ton truck load.

(*e*) The Government is not prepared to make any statement on the subject.

(*f*) The Honourable Member may peruse the papers at the Government office.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

844 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government has made a grant of about Rs. 25,000 towards the construction of a building in the Black Town for the benefit of the Madras Young Men's Christian Association? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the principle of the grant?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Association has put up a notice within the premises of the building in question that rooms in it are available to let? If so, was the Government aware of this purpose of the building when it made the grant?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government has placed at the disposal of the Association the services of the Government Consulting Architect gratis?

(*d*) Is it a fact that bricks from Government kilns were ordered to be supplied for the use of the building at a discount of $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.? If so, what is the quantity ordered to be supplied? Will the Government be pleased to state the necessity and the principle under which these concessions have been made to the Association?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) A grant of Rs. 24,983 payable by instalments in five years has been sanctioned towards the construction of a building for the Madras Young Men's Christian Association. The Government considered that the building, which includes technical class rooms, an intercollegiate department and a hostel, came within the scope of the Grant-in-aid Code.

(*b*) The Government has no information on the subject.

(*c*) Government permitted the Consulting Architect to give his professional assistance, but it was not given gratuitously.

(*d*) Government sanctioned the issue of the bricks required for the building, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs at 10 per cent. over stock rates, with a view to make the building harmonize with the High Court and other buildings in the immediate vicinity and as the institution is intended for the benefit of the public.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

845 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government has refused to supply the "Gopal Row Memorial Library" at Kumbakónam with copies of Government publications gratis?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Library has been registered under the Indian Companies Act?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Library is open to all irrespective of race or religion?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the free supply of the Government publications has been asked for and refused?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the published lists of companies and societies registered under the Act.

(*c*) The Government has no certain information on the subject.

(*d*) The application was refused as the free supply of Government publications, which are on sale at the Government Press and with Book-selling Agents at very moderate prices, has been stopped.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

846 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to a publication in the *Swadesa Mitran* of Madras in its issue of 30th January 1899 that cattle poisoning has greatly increased in Srírangam?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that considerable destruction of cattle due to poisoning takes place throughout the Presidency?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct an investigation as to the kinds of poison administered and the causes and methods of administration and as to the most suitable remedies by way of prevention and cure? Will it also be pleased to call for annual returns of cattle destroyed by poison in each district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the article referred to.

(*b*) & (*c*) Cases of cattle mortality from criminal poisoning are reported to the Board and reviewed every quarter by that authority together with statistics of cattle mortality from other causes. The figures for the last five quarters for which statistics are available give an average of 16 deaths of cattle per quarter by criminal poisoning. The Government at present sees no sufficient reason to order any further special investigation into the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

847 [XXX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware that there is great dissatisfaction among the merchants who despatch goods by rail under what is called Risk Note, Form B, issued under the provisions of sub-clause (*b*), clause 2, of section 72 of the Indian Railways Act, by which the railway is free from all legal responsibility for the loss, destruction or deterioration of the goods consigned for conveyance?

(*b*) Is the Government aware, as stated in the *Swadesa Mitran* of 10th February 1899, that goods sent under the above provisions are being habitually tampered with and purloined during their transit by rail?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to call from the South Indian and Madras Railway Companies for returns during the past two calendar years of the complaints and claims made to the railway authorities in connection with goods sent under the above conditions?

(*d*) Further, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of adopting such measures as it may deem fit in view to increase the confidence of the merchants electing to send goods at their own risk and to improve the efficiency of railway administration?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) Government's attention has been drawn to a letter published in the *Hindu*, dated the 9th February 1899; previous to this no complaint had been brought to the notice of Government.

(*c*) & (*d*) As it is purely optional with the consignor to send his goods under Risk Note Form B instead of using the ordinary forwarding note under which goods are carried at the risk of the Railway, Government sees no reason to interfere.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

848 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government intends to introduce legislation regarding the question of the impartibility or otherwise of the zamindaris and other large estates? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the scope of the proposed legislation and whether it will invite public opinion on the subject before introducing a Bill in the Legislative Council?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether it is desirable to retain the law, as to the powers of alienation by the owners of impartible zamindaris as declared in the recent Pittapur zamindari case?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to question XIII* put by the Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapati Pillai. The Government is unable to make at present any further declaration of its intentions in the matter.

* 830 *supra*, p. 298.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

849 [XXXII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article in the *Madras Times* in its evening issue of 16th March headed "Three devotees, a variation of hook-swinging"?

(*b*) Does the case of the gruesome exhibition described in the article come within the orders passed by the Government regarding hook-swinging? If not, will the Government be pleased to state what steps it intends to take in view to prohibit revolting tortures of this kind?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the article referred to, and will call for a report on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

850 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) In reference to the rules governing the pecuniary relations of Government servants embodied in Part *III* of the "Rules regulating the personal conduct of Government servants," will the Government be pleased to consider whether it is desirable that that portion of rule No. 23 should be retained, which prohibits officers in the subordinate executive and judicial services *from lending* money at interest to landholders throughout the *province* and to owners of house property in towns and hill stations?

(*b*) In view of the general indebtedness of agriculturists and small landholders in this province and of the extortionate rates of interest charged by sowcars, as well as in the interests of the comparatively low-paid subordinate service, will the Government be pleased to exclude from the area of prohibition the native district and one or two neighbouring districts of the Government servant concerned on the condition of his not being employed in those districts?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which *British* firms are exempt from the rule of prohibition as regards monetary transactions with Government servants as embodied in rule No. 24? Will it be pleased to consider the desirability of taking such steps as may be necessary to place all firms, British and Indian, on the same footing in connection with this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The provisions of rules Nos. 23 and 24 are based upon orders of the Government of India, and cannot be altered without the sanction of that Government. The Governor in Council regards the rules as necessary and salutary in the interests of upright administration and declines to consider their modification.

The exemption referred to by the Honourable Member in clause (*c*) having been made by the Government of India, the Government is unable to state the circumstances upon which it was based.

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29. MEETING OF THE 6TH JUNE 1899.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

851 [I] *Question.*—(*a*) What is the provision made for meeting the travelling expenses of the Prosecuting Inspectors of Police while *on duty*?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these officers had till recently been drawing travelling allowances, and that latterly the allowance has been disallowed as being inadmissible under the Civil Service Regulations?

(*c*) If so, will Government be pleased to take steps to make a provision for these officers who have to travel to different parts of the district to which they are attached?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*c*) The matter is now under correspondence with the Government of India.

(*b*) Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

852 [II] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that Government has decided to transfer the head-quarters of the Taluk office from Palladam to Tiruppúr (Coimbatore)?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the proposed transfer was mooted in 1891 and finally abandoned by Government as being undesirable and improper?

(*c*) Is it a fact that His Excellency Lord Wenlock expressed himself in 1891 on the question as follows while on tour in Coimbatore in reply to an address presented by a deputation from the Tiruppúr inhabitants :—

"As regards the transference of the public offices to Tiruppúr, I am told that this is a question that has been gone into thoroughly, and after careful consideration, I am sorry to say for your sakes, the authorities have come to the conclusion that this would not be a proper step. They say that Tiruppúr is far less central than Palladam which is a slightly larger town. The matter has been thoroughly considered and after a full enquiry it was obliged to be dropped. I am sorry to disappoint you in this respect. No doubt we must look at the matter from the whole and not from a party point of view. One town may suffer at the expense of another, it is quite true, but we have to look to the interest of the whole community. In this matter, it seems to me the only way in which the Government can decide properly is to leave Palladam the chief centre."

(*d*) What will be the loss to Government by abandoning existing buildings at Palladam and what will be the cost of erecting new buildings for the offices at Tiruppúr, if the proposed transfer be carried out?

(*e*) Has there been any change of circumstances since the decision arrived at by the Government of His Excellency Lord Wenlock to justify the reversal of that decision?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to reconsider the whole question, before giving effect to the proposed transfer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government last year sanctioned the construction of a first-class Taluk office for Palladam taluk. This will involve the transfer of the Tahsildar's head-quarters from Palladam to Tiruppúr.

(*b*) & (*c*) The proposed transfer was ordered so early as February 1878, the need for a new Taluk office having been recognized in 1875. In July 1878 the Government on a petition from the inhabitants of Palladam declined to reconsider its order. The construction of a new Taluk office at Tiruppúr was however deferred pending the provision of new buildings in other taluks where they were more urgently required. It is true that in 1891 His Excellency Lord Wenlock made the statement quoted but there is nothing on record to show that the transfer was ever reconsidered by the Government.

(*d*) There will practically be no loss to Government as the existing taluk buildings at Palladam are wholly inadequate and unsuitable to the needs of a first-class taluk and a new Taluk office on the standard plan is thus necessary. The cost of a new first-class Taluk office varies from Rs. 27,000 to Rs. 30,000.

(*e*) It has been explained in answer to questions (*b*) and (*c*) that no decision of the Government can be traced of the nature suggested.

(*f*) The Government has decided after full consideration of all the circumstances to maintain the orders of 1878 and sees no reason to re-open the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

853 [III] *Question.*—Is it a fact that in the village of Mahadanapuram, Kumbakónam taluk (Tanjore), a water-cess of Rs. 4 per acre has been imposed for *cholam* planted in the interspaces of the plantain cultivation on the margin of the Veerasolan channel, when no Government water was used, and will Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject, which is one fully within the competence of the local revenue authorities to deal with. As it does not appear that the aggrieved persons (if any) have had recourse to the authorities by law established for the investigation of their grievances, the Government sees no reason to move in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* 782 *supra*, p. 263.

854 [IV] *Question.*—With reference to my question No. VII * asked at the meeting of the Council of the 13th December last on the subject of the levy of water-cess on plantain gardens on the margins of channels of rivers, and the reply of Government thereto, will Government be pleased to state the result of the enquiry ordered by the Board of Revenue into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—No general enquiry such as the question refers to is pending. The Board of Revenue has not communicated to Government the result of the enquiry ordered by it into the supposed erroneous charge of water-rate on certain plantain gardens in the Mannárgudi and Máyavaram taluks of the Tanjore district. The Board will now be asked to communicate to Government the result of the enquiry for the Honourable Member's information.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

855 [V] *Question.*—In view to an equitable distribution of the two posts of Collector and District Magistrate and four posts of District and Sessions Judge thrown open to the Provincial Service between the Revenue and Judicial branches of the service, will Government be pleased to arrange for one Deputy Collector being trained as Sub-Judge in view to his eventual promotion to the post of a District and Sessions Judge ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government does not see that any advantage would be gained by the adoption of the proposal contained in the Honourable Member's question.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

† 688 *supra*, p. 245.

856 [VI] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. XXIV † at the Council meeting of the 4th April 1898 on the defects of the water-works at Trichinopoly and the reply of Government, that the matter would be considered, and with

reference to my questions Nos. X and XI * at the meeting of the 13th December last on the same subject, and the replies thereto, will Government be pleased to state the result of the investigation, if any, and the final proposals thereon to place the works on a better footing ?

* 785, 786 *supra*, p. 264.

(*b*) Is it a fact that the filtration wells have failed and if so, how soon after the construction of the work ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that for a considerable time past the ordinary *unfiltered* flood water of the Cauvery is being pumped and distributed to the town by pipes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) An investigation made by the Chief Engineer, Public Works department, showed that there was not much cause for complaint in regard to the execution of the works. A proposal made by the Chief Engineer to lay a line of iron pipes, 500 feet long, in the bed of the river with a view to increase the supply of water has been sanctioned by Government, but it has not been possible to undertake the work up to date, as the river is reported to be in flood.

(*b*) & (*c*) A report will be called for on these points.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

† 829 *supra*, p. 297

857 [VII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my question No. XII † asked at the Council meeting of the 7th April last, and the answer of Government thereto, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what arrangements have been made to make a Civil Surgeoncy available for a Senior Civil Assistant Surgeon ?

(*b*) Whether Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Thornhill, M.D., I.M.S., District Medical and Sanitary Officer of Nellore, has retired or is to retire, and whether Government will be pleased to take that opportunity of making another Civil Surgeoncy available for Assistant Surgeons by posting to Nellore a commissioned officer holding a Civil Surgeoncy ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Major Patch, I.M.S., has been granted furlough, and so retains a lien on his appointment at Kurnool. There is therefore no present opportunity for the permanent appointment of a Senior Civil Assistant Surgeon to that Civil Surgeoncy.

(*b*) Lieutenant-Colonel Thornhill, I.M.S., has retired from the service. The question of appointing a Civil Assistant Surgeon to the permanent charge of a civil station in consequence of his retirement is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

858 [VIII] *Question.*—Whether, in view of the desirability of affording encouragement to the class of Civil Assistant Surgeons and improving their status, Government will be pleased to take steps to appoint one or two of them of higher qualifications as examiners for the medical examinations of the apothecary and hospital assistant grades ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—If there are fully qualified men among Civil Assistant Surgeons their claims to be appointed as Members of the Board of Examiners for apothecary and hospital assistant grades will be duly considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

859 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to the terms of the Despatch of the Government of India No. 58, dated the 9th October 1888, upon the report of the Public Service Commission, will Government be pleased to state the reasons as to why no Indian was appointed to the recent temporary vacancy caused by the departure of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shephard to Europe on furlough ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—The appointment of an Officiating Judge of the High Court is a matter which, subject to certain statutory limitations, rests with the Governor in Council and the Government is not prepared to discuss with the Honourable Member its reasons for selecting a particular candidate for the appointment.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

860 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that in the absence of definite rules defining the position of Secretaries in Municipalities in relation to the Chairmen, there has been room for friction and conflict of authority?

(*b*) Is the delegation of powers under section 32 (1) of the District Municipalities Act to the Secretaries consistent with the continuance of the responsibilities of the Chairmen, in whom the law vests the entire executive control?

(*c*) In cases in which a delegation is made under section 32 (1) to Secretaries, are the Chairmen relieved of their responsibility "for the due fulfilment of the purposes of the Act"?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to frame draft rules defining clearly the position of Secretaries in relation to the Chairmen, and circulate the same to the Municipal Councils for their opinion?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*c*) The answer to these parts of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) The delegation of the powers mentioned is in accordance with the law.

(*d*) The matter will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

861 [XI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer of Government to question No. XXXVIII * at the meeting of the Council held on the 9th March 1899, will the Government be pleased to call for information with regard to the number of Muhammadans and Hindus at present serving as members of Union Panchayats, Local Boards and Municipal Councils, respectively, and the proportion of Muhammadans to the total number of members of each class, as the above figures will furnish the data for the opinion expressed by Government?

* 811 *supra*, p. 292.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The names of members of District Boards and Municipal Councils are given in the Quarterly Civil List. The Government does not consider that any useful purpose will be served by calling for information regarding the number of Muhammadans and Hindus serving on the Taluk Boards and Union Panchayats.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

862 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the answer of Government to question No. XXXIX† at the meeting of the Council held on the 9th March 1899, will the Government be pleased to call for, from the department concerned, information as to the number of constables, head constables and station-house officers included among officers in the superior service in the General Administration Report for 1896–97, as the matter is of vital importance to the Muhammadan population?

† 812 *supra*, p. 292.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish information as regards the number of Muhammadan officials in superior service drawing a salary of Rs. 50 and more per mensem and the percentage these bear to the total number of Muhammadans employed in the service?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to call for and lay on the table a comparative statement showing the total amount of salaries, respectively, earned by the Muhammadans and the Hindus in superior service and the ratios which the above figures bear to the total amount disbursed to all officers excluding Europeans?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to embody in future the information referred to in clauses (*a*), (*b*), and (*c*) in the reports annually submitted to the Government of India as the statistics will furnish a true criterion of the extent to which state patronage is enjoyed by the Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*c*) The Government is not prepared to undertake the laborious task of collecting the information suggested by the Honourable Member.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to the various departmental establishment lists which he can inspect in the Government office.

(*d*) The Government is unable to comply with this request.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

863 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed the "Salt Department" appearing in the *Muhammadan* of the 16th March 1899 and will it be pleased to take suitable measures for removing the causes of the complaint made in the latter portion of the article, seeing that it is not the first of its kind, but is often made in public journals as well as in influential circles?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to inquire into the individual claims of Muhammadan Graduates for advancement in the higher ranks of the public service, seeing that the future progress of higher education among the Muhammadans depends largely on the encouragement given to these Graduates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the article and sees no reason for interference.

(*b*) The Government is not prepared to make the enquiry suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

864 [XIV] *Question.*—Is the Government aware that under the operation of G.O., No. 316, Educational, dated 23rd May 1896, the children of Carnatic Stipendiaries whose pensions have been compulsorily commuted under the rules now in force are deprived of the benefit of free education enjoyed by the children of those who are in receipt of stipends of Rs. 40 and below? If so, will the Government be pleased to place the former on a footing of equality with the latter, seeing that the former deserve the bounty of Government and the public even more than the latter on account of their indigent circumstances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government does not see reason for treating the families of persons who have commuted their stipends under the rules of 1885 in any special way.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

865 [XV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article in the *Madras Times* in its evening issue of the 19th instant, headed "A tale of last night"?

(*b*) Are the statements made therein touching the conduct of the two medical men attached to the General Hospital true?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct an enquiry into their conduct?

(*d*) Is there any rule or order that persons wounded by the commission of offences against them cannot be attended to by medical men until asked by the Police or Magistrates to do so?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has now perused the article referred to and will call for a report on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

866 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) In reference to the proposed tranfer of the head-quarters of Palladam taluk in the Coimbatore district from the town of Palladam to Tiruppúr, has the Government received a memorial dated 7th April last and signed by several inhabitants of the taluk praying that Palladam may be retained as the head-quarters?

(*b*) Has the Government inquired into the validity of the several objections which the memorialists urge against the transfer?

(*c*) Is it a fact that His Excellency Lord Wenlock personally visited Palladam and Tiruppúr and expressed disapproval of the proposal to transfer the head-quarters from the former to the latter?

(*d*) Has the Government considered the prayer of the memorialists that an enquiry may be directed in view to obtain a report upon the sanitation and the water convenience of the two places as well as to ascertain the general wishes of the people of the taluk?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The memorial referred to has not been received by the Government. When the question as to the place at which the new Taluk office should be built was under consideration last year, the Government had before it a largely signed memorial from the inhabitants of Palladam protesting against the transfer of the taluk head-quarters to Tiruppúr.

* 852 *supra* p. 307.

(*c*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question II * put by Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabhapathi Pillai.

(*d*) As already stated the Government has not received any memorial on the subject recently and sees no reason to re-open the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

867 [XVII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of reviewing its decision under section 557 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and embodied in G.O., No. 78, Judicial, dated 11th January 1899, that pleaders shall not be allowed to sit as Honorary Magistrates in any court if they practise in any other court unconnected with the former provided it is situate within the local area over which the former court exercises its authority?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The decision referred to was based on the opinion of the Advocate-General embodied in G.O., No. 78, dated 11th January 1899, and the Government is not prepared to reconsider it under existing circumstances. It may be added that in the opinion of the Advocate-General the disqualification imposed by section 557 of the Code of Criminal Procedure applies only to pleaders who practise in Magistrates' Courts, and that Honorary Magistrates are not precluded from practising before Sessions Courts.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

868 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether effect is being given to G.O., No. 86 L., dated 17th January 1897, impressing upon Local Boards that their Engineering staff should be recruited from among persons locally born and trained or locally trained and that persons of approved service should be promoted to be District Board Engineers?

(*b*) Will it be pleased to state further how many persons, being natives of India, have been appointed since the issue of the Government order (1) as District Board Engineers, (2) as Assistant Local Board Engineers, and (3) how many Indian Assistant Local Board Engineers have been promoted to be District Board Engineers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question * at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 1st February 1898.

* 667 *supra*, p. 336.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

869 [XIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the Government received representations from the people of Srivilliputtúr in the Tinnevelly district praying for the dissolution of the Municipal Council of that place?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the administration of that Municipality has not yet been a success?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there is great difficulty in collecting the Municipal taxes?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the people complain that the great majority of them are too poor to pay the Municipal taxes?

(*e*) Has the Government directed any inquiry as to the capacity of the people to bear such taxes? If not, will the Government be pleased to direct such an inquiry?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and lay on the table information as to (1) the number of the villages that constitute the Municipality, (2) the population of each such village, (3) the number of thatched houses and huts in each village, (4) the number of tiled and terraced houses in each village, (5) the number of people in each village exclusively engaged in agriculture together with the amount of revenue which each man pays to Government, (6) the number of coercive processes issued during the last four years for the collection of the Municipal taxes, and (7) the number of prosecutions during the same period for resistance to the execution of such processes?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table papers showing the grounds for abolishing the Municipal Council in 1886 and also for re-establishing it in 1894?

(*h*) Is it a fact that the sanitary condition of Srívilliputtúr under the administration of the Union Panchayat was found satisfactory?

(*i*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of dissolving the Municipal Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No representations of the kind have been received by Government since 1894.

(*b*) This part of the question will be answered in the negative.

(*c*) The number of warrants issued in 1897–98 was considerably less than in the previous year.

(*d*) The Government has not received any such complaint since 1894.

(*e*) The answer to both parts of this question is "No".

(*f*) The Government is not prepared to make the enquiries asked for. Such of the information as is contained in the Administration Report of the Municipality has been already laid on the Editors' Table.

(*g*) G.O., No. 577 M., dated 21st June 1886, which relates to the abolition of the Municipality in 1886 will be shown to the Honourable Member. With regard to the grounds for re-establishing it in 1894, the Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 1065 M., dated 10th August 1894, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*h*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(*i*) The Government is not prepared to adopt the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

870 [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether rules have been framed to carry out its forest policy as enunciated in G.O., No. 569, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897? If so, are any and which districts excluded from the full benefit of that Government order?

(*b*) Is it a fact that rules relating to forest concessions are not published and proclaimed in the villages concerned otherwise than by the publication thereof in the Fort St. George and District Gazettes? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of directing that such rules should be published in the villages entitled to the enjoyment of the concessions by affixing copies thereof in conspicuous places and by beat of tom-tom?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that in unreserved lands near railways the Forest department cut wood other than reserved and sells the same to the Railway Companies?

(*d*) Is Government aware that ryots in the villages entitled to Forest concessions in respect of such lands, are put to great inconvenience by such action? Will the Government be pleased to direct the Revenue Department to make an inquiry and report whether the action aforesaid of the Forest department is in accordance with the spirit and intention of paragraph 5 of the said Government order, and whether or not the said action interferes with the rights of the ryots to meet their agricultural and domestic requirements safeguarded in the Government order?

(*e*) Is the Government aware that petty Forest subordinates such as the guards, tannadars, reserve watchers, and permit-issuing officers are generally entertained temporarily and some of them on commission without pay? In view to minimise the evils of oppression and corruption of these petty subordinates, will the Government be pleased to consider the question of directing that such subordinates should, as far as possible, be entertained permanently and on fixed pay without any commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government order quoted merely recapitulated existing orders and rules on matters of forest policy and enjoined their observance in a spirit of sympathy with the people. No further rules were contemplated. Forest rules vary in different districts and localities. Wherever such rules apply, the Government desires that they should be worked tolerantly and sympathetically.

(*b*) No, except by notification in the Gazettes the village sheets of which are sent to every village in the district. The Government does not consider that any such general direction as that suggested by the Honourable Member is required or would be of more practical value than the present method. There is no reason to think that such concessions are not generally known; and the local officers have full discretion to adopt any special means of publication they may consider necessary.

(*c*) & (*d*) By the term "wood other than reserved" it is presumed the Honourable Member does not refer to classified trees which as well as reserved trees are not available generally for free felling. Subject to this reservation, the Government is not aware of any such general practice as that referred to in the question. If the Honourable Member is aware of any concrete instances and will be good enough to specify them the Government will be glad to consider the necessity for making an enquiry into the matter.

(*e*) It is the case that some of the subordinate establishments are temporarily employed in the Forest Department to do work of a temporary character and it is also true that in some cases they are allowed commission. Having regard to the nature and conditions of the work performed by such establishments, it would not be to the interest of the public service to make them permanent on fixed pay. But it is the policy of Government to reduce the temporary establishments to the smallest limits possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

871 [XXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints against the hardships of the inhabitants of Srívilliputtúr (Tinnevelly) in consequence of its constitution as a Municipality under the District Municipalities Act?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the inhabitants of the place are chiefly poor agriculturists, with little or no trade?

(*c*) Is it a fact that out of a total of 6,407 houses in the town about 5,000 are thatched huts?

(*d*) Was the town constituted into a Municipality in 1886, and immediately after abolished as such in consequence of its unsuitability for a municipal institution, and was it made a *major union* in the same year?

(*e*) Was the town worked as a major union from 1886 till 1894 and with what results?

(*f*) Has the demand under house-tax increased from Rs. 1,772-10-0 in 1894-95 to Rs. 6,600 in 1899-1900?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a return showing the numbers of coercive processes issued in the Municipality from its commencement down to the end of 1898-99?

(*h*) Does the Government think that the collection of taxes in the Municipality has been unattended with grave hardships to the rate-payers, as judged by the number of coercive processes issued year after year?

(*i*) Has the Government reason to believe that there has been a sensible reduction in the population of the place, after it was constituted as a Municipality, and if so what has been the decrease, and the causes thereof?

(*j*) Will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of reverting to the former arrangement, and replacing the Municipality by a *major union*?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) The information before the Government is to the effect that Srívilliputtúr is a wealthy and thriving town.

(*c*) The Government has no information on the point.

(*d*) The town was in 1885 constituted a Municipality, which was abolished in 1886.

(*e*) The answer to the first part of this question is, yes; to the second part the reply is, the information required by the Honourable Member can be obtained from the Administration Reports of the Tinnevelly District Board for the years referred to which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*f*) The demand under house-tax in 1894-95 was Rs. 1,780 while the estimated demand for 1899-1900 is Rs. 6,200.

(*g*) and (*j*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answers given to similar questions * put by the Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar.

* 869 *supa*, p. 313.

(*h*) The Government is not prepared to pronounce any opinion in the matter.

(*i*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part, therefore, requires no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 123 & 253 *supra*, pp. 46 and 98 respectively.

872 [XXII] *Question.*—With reference to my questions † at the meetings of the Council held on the 20th November 1894 and 4th November 1895, about the appointment of District Judges, and the answers thereto, will the Government be pleased to state, whether it has come to any decision, as to the steps that should be taken to place this branch of the Judicial Service on a more efficient and satisfactory footing; and if so, will Government be pleased to state the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—After a careful consideration of the subject, the Government has come to the conclusion that no effective measures for the training of junior Civilians in Civil Judicial work can be introduced without a considerable increase of expenditure, and that the question must stand over for the present.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

873 [XXIII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the result of the further consideration which it promised to give to the question of the desirability of avoiding the frequent transfers among the junior members of the Civil Service (*vide* Question No. I ‡ at the meeting of the Council held on the 26th February 1896 and the answer thereto)?

‡ 282 *supra*, p. 111.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—After full consideration the Government has found it impossible to accept any of the schemes put forward for reducing the frequency of transfers among junior members of the Civil Service. A copy of G.O., No. 1065, Public, dated 22nd August 1898, which contains the latest orders on the subject, will be laid upon the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

874 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the concluding portion of the following rule (G.O., No. 881, Revenue, dated 30th July 1885), embodied in the Settlement Manual, is now observed in the settlement of districts?

"The Government resolve therefore to direct that henceforth the period to be adopted in all settlements for the determination of the commutation price shall be the 20 non-famine years immediately preceding such settlement * * * *If however the commutation price thus arrived at, should be greater than the lowest rate touched by prices during the standard period, then such lowest rate or some convenient round number slightly less than it, should be accepted as the commutation rate without* further deduction.

(*b*) If the latter part of the above rule is not followed, will Government be pleased to state when it was abrogated, and if so, why?

(*c*) Whether any notice was given to the public, before the said portion of the rule was cancelled, and if not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to (*a*) is in the negative. The Honourable Member's quotation is made from a copy of the Manual which has not been corrected up to date.

(*b*) In 1885, the rule quoted was laid down by Government for the guidance of Settlement officers. In the following year it became apparent that the rule was ill-considered, and that a commutation rate so arrived at might often in no wise represent the fair average price at which the Government share of the produce should be valued in money when making a settlement for the long term of 30 years. The rule was accordingly cancelled by Government in 1887 in favour of a rule under which the commutation rate is taken from the average price of the 20 non-famine years preceding the settlement *minus* an allowance for the difference between merchants' prices and ryots' prices.

This change of rule was approved by the Secretary of State in 1888.

(*c*) The rule was abrogated by the same authority as issued it and previous notice was not given to the public, because it was unnecessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

875 [XXV] *Question.*—With reference to questions * asked at the meetings of the Council held on the 8th April 1896, 9th December 1896, and 23rd November 1897 and the answers thereto, will Government be pleased to state the result of the enquiry with reference to the subject, whether the price of paddy entered in the price returns, represents the price of new or old paddy?

* 364, 419 and 522 *supra* pp. 133, 151 and 224, respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The result of the enquiry was that it was found that the prices reported as those of first and second sort paddy were generally those of the chief superior or dearer and chief inferior or cheaper varieties selling in the local market at the time whether the grain happened to be new or old.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

876 [XXVI] *Question.*—With reference to the opinion expressed by this Government in 1891, that no alteration could be made in the water-rates in Gódávari and Kistna during the currency of the settlement and with reference to the answer † of Government at the meeting of the Council held on the 23rd November 1897, that the same was subsequently found to be erroneous, will Government be pleased to state when the said opinion was so found to be erroneous?

† 523 *supra*, p. 224.

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—During the course of a discussion between this Government and the Government of India in 1891 an opinion to the effect stated by the Honourable Member was indicated: but on further and fuller consideration this Government arrived at the final decision regarding the enhancement of the water-rate which was intimated to the Government of India in 1894.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

877 [XXVII] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the amounts spent each year on the improvement of the Kolair lake since November 1894, when Government was pleased to institute enquiries into the matter; and considering that the improvements already effected have conferred great benefit on nearly two lakhs of acres in and around the lake, will Government be pleased to state the measures it has proposed to adopt for effectually improving the drainage and the sanitary condition of the lake and the total amount proposed to be spent for the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The estimated outlay on improvements to the Kolair lake in 1896-97 was Rs. 11,900 exclusive of the amount spent on widening the main outlet at Kotada. In 1897-98 the estimated outlay was Rs. 8,000. The principal outlets of the lake have been widened, the long grass rooted out and other improvements executed.

The reply to the concluding portion of the question regarding future measures proposed and their cost is that this matter must rest until the effect of the work already done is seen.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

* 367 *supra*, p. 134.

878 [XXVIII] *Question.*—With reference to the answer * of Government at the meeting of the Council held on the 8th April 1896, that the question of improving the drainage in the Gódávari delta would be further considered, will Government be pleased to state what steps it has proposed to take to improve the drainage in the delta?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Since 1896 the following works have been sanctioned in connection with the drainage of the Gódávari delta :—An estimate of Rs. 1,05,500 for a short cut on the Yenamadurra drain to Naidupalem yeru in the Gódávari Western Division, and an estimate of Rs. 1,350 for inlets to the same drain; an estimate of Rs. 23,000 for constructing a combined drainage outfall sluice, aqueduct and canal-surplus in the Bank Canal of the Gódávari Central Delta; an estimate of Rs. 10,700 in connection with the Ainapuram drain.

An estimate of Rs. 39,100 for improvements to the Rangarazucodu drain is now before Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 414 *supra*, p. 160.

879 [XXIX] *Question.*—With reference to the statement placed on the table, showing the number of licenses issued in certain districts under rule 1, clause (*f*) of the Tree-tax rules for the years 1892-93 to 1896-97, in answer to my question † on the subject at the meeting of the Council held on the 9th December 1896, and in view of the fact that except in South Canara and Malabar, the privilege is not availed of to any appreciable extent, will Government be pleased to enquire why the benefit of the rule is not enjoyed and to adopt such measures as may be considered necessary for removing the difficulties now experienced by the owners of trees in the matter of licenses for the drawing of toddy required for domestic purposes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—A copy of the report of the Board of Revenue explaining why the concession has not been utilised will be placed on the table for the Honourable Member's information. The Government does not consider that at present any interference on its part is called for.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

‡ 767 *supra*, p. 271.

880 [XXX] *Question.*—With reference to question No. XXXIII ‡ at the meeting of the Council held on the 13th December 1898 and the answer thereto, will Government be pleased to state whether any, and if so, what improvements have, since the issue of G.O., No. 1747, Judicial, dated 28th August 1893, been effected in the preparation of the lists of jurors and assessors, and whether any, and if so, what rules have since been adopted by Sessions Judges and District Collectors for the guidance of Tahsildars and village officers who are called upon to prepare such lists? If Government is not in a position to answer the question, will Government be pleased to call for a report in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is not in a position to answer the question, and does not consider it necessary to call for a report at present.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

* 650 *supra*, p. 284.

881 [XXXI] *Question.*—With reference to the answer * of Government at the meeting held on the 1st February 1898, that the merits of the system in connection with results grants were under the consideration of Government, will Government be pleased to state if it has come to any decision in the matter and if so what?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 461, Educational, dated the 27th July 1898, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble Mr. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

† 756 *supra*, p. 270.

882 [XXXII] *Question.*—With reference to G.O., No. 174, Revenue, dated 10th March 1899, in reply to question No. XXXII † asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 13th December 1898, will Government be pleased to state whether any statements were made by or taken from Lieutenants Hogg and Francis and also from the Deputy Tahsildar, the Sub-Registrar, the Forest Ranger, the Inspector of Police, the Head Constable and the village officers of Chintalapudi, as to what transpired at Chintalapudi on the 17th May 1898, and if so, will Government be pleased to place the same on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government considers this matter closed. No useful purpose would in its opinion be served by adding to the information already given or publishing further papers relative to the case.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

883 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of medical men now employed temporarily on Plague duty in the Presidency of Madras and what that expenditure comes to per mensem?

(*b*) How many of them have been imported from London, specially for Plague duty in this Presidency, and how long will their services be retained? What is the total salary of all such people per mensem?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The return received by Government dated 1st May 1899 shows that 36 medical men are employed on Plague duty in the Presidency. Their pay and allowances amount to Rs. 13,680 per mensem.

(*b*) Sixteen of the temporary medical men employed on Plague duty were imported from England and orders have issued under which the services of several of these doctors will shortly be dispensed with.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

884 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred for repair and construction of lighthouses in the Presidency of Madras from 1896 up to date?

(*b*) What are the special circumstances under which the Lighthouse Division of the Public Works Department was separately constituted, and whether the said works could not be entrusted to the ordinary Public Works Divisions, like other works as before, and will the Government be pleased to state (1) the amount actually budgeted, (2) the amount actually spent by the Lighthouse Division during the year 1896-97, 1897-98 and 1898-99?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the incomplete lighthouse works since started by the head of that division, as also their valuation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) and (*c*) The Honourable Member is requested to repeat his question at the next meeting explaining as regards question (*c*) more specifically what he requires.

(*b*) The work is of a special character and has therefore been put in charge of a specially qualified officer. But the division is an ordinary Public Works Division.

The amounts actually budgeted for during the three years in question are as follows :—

	Rs.
1896-97	*Nil.*
1897-98	50,000
1898-99	2,20,000

The amounts spent are as follows :—

1896-97	225
1897-98	40,243
1898-99 .. .. (approximate)	1,04,000

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

885 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not necessary in accordance with the Government order on the subject, that persons before being appointed as Huzur Sarishtadars, should have had active service as a Tahsildar with a view to procure sound revenue experience?

(*b*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the recent appointment of Huzur Sarishtadar made by the Collector of Kurnool, and will the Government be pleased to state whether the officer appointed has had the necessary qualifying service as a Tahsildar, and if not, what are the special circumstances that led the Board of Revenue to sanction such appointment in preference to his seniors who have had active service as Tahsildars in that district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government is not prepared to endorse so strict an instruction as that suggested in the Honourable Member's question. The standing rule is that "only such persons as have had considerable experience in the Revenue Department" should be nominated for the post of Huzur Sarishtadar.

(*b*) The Government has no information on the subject but sees no ground to suppose that a wise discretion has not been exercised in selecting an officer to fill the post referred to.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

886 [XXXVI] *Question.*—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the unsatisfactory nature of the second-class carriages of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, and will the Government be pleased to take the necessary steps to remedy the evil, now that the fare for a second class in the South Indian Railway is as heavy as in other railways?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the Consulting Engineer for Railways to whom, in the first place, complaints about railway accommodation should be addressed.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

887 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) In view of the principle that the system of election to Municipal Councils, Local and District Boards is mainly intended for men who are not in Government service, will the Government be pleased to frame rules prohibiting officials from standing as candidates therefor?

(*b*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the recent elections of the Tahsildar of Cuddapah and the Huzur Sarishtadar of Kurnool at the head of the poll as Councillors for those Municipalities, respectively?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has held that there is no objection to officials being elected and is not prepared to adopt the suggestion of the Honourable Member.

(*b*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

888 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has submitted to the Government of India its scheme for the reorganization of the Registration Department, and whether the scheme has been approved by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes." The proposals require the sanction of the Secretary of State. The Government is not aware whether they have been approved by the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

889 [XXXIX] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state what are the special circumstances that led to the appointment of Mr. C. A. Wilkinson as Assistant Mathematical Lecturer, Kumbakónam College, and what previous appointment he was holding, and what special circumstances led to his transfer to the Educational Department, and will the Government be pleased to place the correspondence on the table, on the subject between the Government and the Director of Public Instruction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Mr. Wilkinson was, before his transfer to the Educational Department, a clerk in the Chief Secretariat of the Government Office on Rs. 140. He had previously been a master in the Doveton College, Madras. There were no special circumstances attending his transfer which was made in the interests of the public service. There has been no correspondence between Government and the Director of Public Instruction on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

890 [XL] *Question.*—With reference to the recent order of Government regarding the appointment of Accounts Clerks in the Public Works Department, will the Government be pleased to state whether it will relax the rule as regards the age limit, in the case of those already in the service of the Public Works Department, prior to the date of the issue of the said order and who are qualified by experience and the passing of the necessary tests to hold the place of Accountants in the Public Works Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 1864 W., dated 25th July 1898. But the Government reserves to itself the right of disqualifying any particular man whom it may consider too old to enter a new establishment.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

891 [XLI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence between the Madras Municipality and the Government on the subject of interpellation by the Madras Municipal Commissioners, which was enjoyed by them till recently?

of the schedule, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of affording speedy relief in the matter, and to state when the proposed measure is likely to be brought forward?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

* 860 *supra*, p. 310.

901 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to question No. X, clause (*d*),* put by me at the meeting of the Council held on the 6th June 1899 on the subject of defining by rules the position of Municipal Secretaries in relation to their Chairmen, will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken in the matter?

(*b*) Whether, in view of the friction generally existing between Secretaries and their Chairmen, Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of amending the law in such manner as may be found necessary?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) The Collectors of certain districts have been asked to suggest a set of rules on the subject, and their replies are awaited.

(*b*) Without admitting the assumption in this part of the question the Government will await the result of the working of the rules referred to in the answer to the first part of this question before considering the desirability of amending the law.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

902 [XI] *Question.*—In view of the fact that there are at present no rules for the guidance of Municipal Councils in electing their Secretaries, will Government be pleased to frame rules on the subject on the lines of the rules now in force in regard to the election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, providing, among other things, for the securing by the successful candidate a clear majority of more than half the votes of the entire council?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—The matter will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

903 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following extract quoted by the *Hindu* in its issue of the 19th September 1899 from the order of a Sessions Judge in this Presidency, passed in receiving an appeal presented by an accused person who had been convicted of perjury in having made two contradictory statements on oath?—

"Appeal admitted. But as to appellant's action (in committing perjury by two contradictory statements, in consequence of which a guilty person had been acquitted) whether criminal or not, it was a serious blunder. It has caused apparently the acquittal of a guilty person I will not hear the appeal until he produces a certificate from Mr. . . . . that he has petitioned for an appeal by Government against the acquittal of a guilty person or persons whom appellant's stupidity caused to escape unconvicted and unpunished.

(Signed) . . . . . .
Sessions Judge."

(*b*) Is Government aware whether any and what notice has been taken of the above procedure by the High Court?

(*c*) If Government has no information on the matter, will it be pleased to call for the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) Government has now perused the article in question.

(*b*) Government has no information on the subject.

(*c*) Government sees no reason to call for any information on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

904 [XIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware of the recent orders of the Board of Revenue in July 1899 to the effect that no person can be appointed to posts in the Revenue Department carrying a salary of upwards of Rs. 35 per mensem unless he has had a training as revenue inspector for a period of twelve months?

(*b*) Was Government consulted by the Board before the orders were issued, and does it approve of the same?

(*c*) Is Government aware that revenue inspectors on Rs. 35 and Rs. 40 per mensem have to keep conveyances for touring in their ranges, and incur other expenses incidental to travelling while they are not paid any travelling allowances, and does Government consider that in the face of such demands on their purse, these officers will be able to keep themselves above temptation?

(*d*) Is compulsory training in such posts, before promotion to the superior appointments of Deputy Tahsildars, Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates, &c., conducive to official morality?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Board's instructions were in accordance with the principle enunciated in G.O., No. 413, Revenue, dated 27th July 1898, which was founded on the Government of India Resolution published in the *Gazette of India* on the Proceedings of the Agricultural Conferences of 1893 and 1895–96. The Government Order will be placed on the Editors' table.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government declines to express an opinion.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

905 [XIV] *Question.*—With reference to the strictures of Government passed year after year in its review of the administration reports of Municipalities in general, that the registration of vital statistics in them is not satisfactory, will Government be pleased to state upon what standard these remarks are based, and whether it will advise the Municipalities as to how the registration of births and deaths is to be improved?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—The average birth and death rate for the Presidency according to the last census is taken as the standard. With reference to the latter part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to G.O., No. 926 M., dated 17th May 1898.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

906 [XV] *Question.*—With reference to the report of the Hon'ble Dr. D. Duncan, Commissioner for Government Examinations, for the year 1898–99 that the Upper Secondary examination has been in existence for nine years, that only thirty candidates have up to date rendered themselves eligible for superior services under Government, and that the examination has served no useful purpose, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of abolishing the examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—No; not at present. The concession of bringing up a vernacular as their first language now enjoyed by female candidates has just been extended to male candidates. The effect of this change will be awaited.

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state when the Madras City Municipal Act will be amended on the subject of interpellation, as similar provisions are to be found in the District Municipalities Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) G.O., No. 682 M., dated 31st March 1898, which relates to this subject will be shown to the Honourable Member.

(*b*) The amendment of the City of Madras Municipal Act will be undertaken in due course.

The Hon'ble Mr. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

892 [XLII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a return of the appointments of Stationary Sub-Magistrates made during the last five years, with their respective educational qualifications, and how many of them have been promoted as Tahsildars and Huzur Sarishtadars?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to vest in the Board of Revenue the powers they had in the matter of the appointment of Tahsildars and Stationary Sub-Magistrates as before?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) In reply to the first part of the Honourable Member's question, the Government regrets to be unable to find any sufficient ground for calling for the return requested. Its compilation would occupy much time and in the opinion of Government serve no purpose of commensurate usefulness.

(*b*) The Government is not at present prepared to withdraw the enlarged powers of appointment recently and experimentally conferred on Collectors. No appointment can be made except from a list of qualified officers which is periodically submitted to and scrutinized by the Board of Revenue, and in respect of any injudicious appointment the Board of Revenue retains its power of control.

The Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

893 [XLIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which led to the reversion of Saiyid Ala-ud-din Sahib, late Secretary to Negapatam Municipality, to the Registration Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government was satisfied that the relations between Saiyid Ala-ud-din Sahib and the Chairman were so strained that it would be impossible for them to work together harmoniously. As the Secretary was then on probation, he was ordered to revert to his appointment in the Registration Department.

30. MEETING OF THE 14TH NOVEMBER 1899.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

894, 895, 896 & 897 *Questions*—**894** [I].—Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of granting to the leading Unions in the Presidency the right of electing to a seat on the Taluk Board one, at least, of the members of each Union?

895 [II].—Will the Government be pleased to grant to the taxpayers under every Taluk Board the right of electing a certain proportion of the members of such Board,—the electors to be subject to the same property qualifications as in Municipalities?

896 [III].—Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of granting to the tax-payers and inhabitants of the most prominent Unions the right of electing the members of those Unions as in the case of Municipalities?

897 [IV].—Will the Government be pleased to grant to the members of the leading Unions in the Presidency the right of electing their Chairmen?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

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897 } *Answer.*—The Government does not consider that the inhabitants of rural tracts are yet sufficiently advanced to appreciate and avail themselves of the elective franchise with advantage to the administration.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

898 [VII *] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to consider it right that our zamindari children under the Court of Wards should be taught and trained to the satisfaction of our community? If so, will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee of zamindars and native gentlemen of position who shall act as visitors with power to report to the Court of Wards the results of their visitation to the Madras establishment for the minors under the Court of Wards?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member's suggestions will be communicated to the Court of Wards in whom the supervision of the minors during their term of wardship is vested by law.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

899 [VIII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to my Question No. VI † put at the meeting of the Council on the 6th June 1899 on the subject of the water-works at Trichinopoly, and the G.O. thereon, Mis. No. 1062 M., dated 26th July 1899, I beg to ask whether Government is aware that the filtration wells have again failed, and that during the last two months or thereabouts the ordinary unfiltered flood water of the Cauvery is being pumped and distributed to the town by pipes? † 556 *supra*, p. 308.

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of this question is in the negative.

(*b*) The second part of the question, therefore, requires no answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

900 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to the complaints made to Government by several Municipalities on the great fall in their revenue by the operation of the amended schedule on the tax on arts and professions, and the contemplated amendment

* Questions V and VI were withdrawn at the meeting by the Honourable the Raja of Bobbili.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

907 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any and what arrangements are in force for the sanitation of Vaidísvarankóyil, a station on the South Indian Railway in the district of Tanjore ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that although there are ten tanks in the village which contains upwards of 1,000 houses, not one is conserved but that all the tanks are used indiscriminately for drinking, bathing and washing of clothes and cattle, &c. ?

(*c*) In view of the fact that the place is resorted to by large numbers of pilgrims and worshippers every month, will Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of establishing a union in it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) A provision of Rs. 40 has been made in the Local Board's budget for the current year to meet the cost of making sanitary arrangements at fairs and festivals in this village.

(*b*) The Government has no information on this subject.

(*c*) The District Board will be requested to report on this suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

908 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government perused the paragraph in the *Madras Standard* of the 19th October 1899, headed " A Tale from Tinnevelly," from which it appears that a midwife, attached to a dispensary near the railway station at Tinnevelly, complained to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer that the prosecuting inspector of police had made improper overtures to her, that her complaint was forwarded by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to the Taluk Board President, ... who held a departmental enquiry, found that the complaint was well founded and reported the matter to the Superintendent of Police, that the Superintendent objected that the Taluk Board President's proceedings were *ultra vires*, and that the District Magistrate concurring, ordered that the midwife should complain to the proper authorities ?

(*b*) Was not the dispensary to which the midwife had been attached under the control of the President of the Taluk Board, and was not that officer entitled as such to hold an enquiry into the complaint of the midwife ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to call for a report upon the matter, and deal with it in such manner as may be deemed fit ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has now perused the paragraph referred to.

(*b*) & (*c*) Government has no information on the matter and sees no reason to call for any.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

909 [XVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that one Pera Sinnanna Nadar of Sivakási despatched the following telegram on the 5th of June 1889, *i.e.*, the day preceding the riots at that place to the Superintendent of Police of Tinnevelly ?—

" After honour's visit here on the 31st May, I hear Iyempati, Karvisalkulam, Kongankulam, Kattanarpati, Satisarati, Aneikuttam are plundered day time by Maravars, Kallars, Pallars being helped by other caste people. Pushakavatti, two miles from here, was plundered yesterday. My caste people only sustain loss. Notice to the effect that Sivakási will be plundered on the 6th, Tuesday, is known. My caste people fear, as no precautions, and after attempts, are taken by native officials here to the people whose properties are plundered. I have seen mobs 200—300 in number. I humbly crave honour to take immediate steps before plunder and murder. Notwithstanding crying for protection of person and property, by wire and petitions, your honour didn't believe the facts ; but if your honour be pleased to stay here for a few days, evidence will be personally known. There will be no plunder and murder at all if your honour be pleased to arrest Vellia Thevan *alias* Veerappa Thevan, Naduvapatti, and Vendar Arumugam Pillai, Sivakási."

(*b*) Is it a fact that the same person despatched on the same date, *i.e.*, the day preceding the date of the riots at Sivakási, the following telegram to the District Magistrate, Tinnevelly ?—

" I crave honour sufficient protection of person and property is indispensable to Sivakási Nadars from marauding of Maravars and their addition which will commence 6th, Tuesday morning, as several adjoining villages have been plundered and their booties are carried in carts only in day time. Government native officials here take no steps before or after. Honour's presence with Police Superintendent is indispensable here for a week at least from Monday. Cause of plunder and murder by Maravars and their addition in several villages is higher authorities disbelieving telegrams and petitions of my innocent caste people at beginning but believing words and tricks of Government native officials here. There will be no plunder and murder elsewhere, if Vendar Arumugam Pillai, Vellia Thevan Naduvapatti are arrested. Sivakási Nadars tremble that mobs have fixed Tuesday for their plunder and murder as the mobs have already fulfilled their mischiefs in several villages according to their words. Precaution is indispensable before plunder and murder."

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Assistant Superintendent of Police of Tinnevelly recommended towards the end of April last, that a Magistrate should be stationed at Sivakási in view of the strained relation between the Shanars and other classes, and what action was taken upon such recommendation if it had been made ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police visited Sivakási on the 31st May and the 5th June 1899, and that the Police Inspector, Parthasaradhi Aiyangar, had reported to them that Sivakási would possibly be attacked on the 6th of June 1899 ?

(*e*) What was the Police force available at Sivakási on the day of the riots, and what part did they take in the suppression of the riots ?

(*f*) Is the following opening speech of Mr. Sankaran Nayar, Government Pleader, made in the Court of the Additional Sessions Judge of Tinnevelly in the trial of Sivakási rioters, Vaduganada Thevan and 92 others, correctly reported by the *Madras Mail* in its issue of the 13th October 1899 ?

" The situation was considered so serious that the Sub-Magistrate of Virudupatti was stationed at Sivakási till about the end of May. From the end of April negotiations were going on between the Shanars and Maravars in view to an amicable settlement of the dispute but to no purpose. The Missionaries of Sachiapuram did what they could, but the Maravars insisting on the exclusion of the Shanars from the temple nothing came of it. But they obtained pledges of immunity for themselves—pledges that were faithfully kept. Towards the end of May, matters became more serious. From acts of lawlessness on the part of individual Maravars and Shanars, it came to a matter of riots between the Maravars as a class and Shanars as a class. The public roads were rendered unsafe and villages were attacked wholesale and all sorts of serious offences were perpetrated. The first of such riots attended with dacoity, &c., occurred on the 23rd May and cases continued to occur on the following days. On the 24th, 26th, 27th, 29th and 30th villages were thus attacked. On the 31st May two villages were attacked, two others again on the 1st June, four on the 2nd June, three on the 4th June, two on the 5th June and four on the 6th June, exclusive of the big riot at Sivakási. A point about these riots was that the earlier riots occurred at night ; but, owing apparently to the fact that the inquiries made into these earlier riots were not efficiently full and complete to observe the rioters, the latter became more and more bold and reckless and from midnight dacoities they ventured on broad daylight dacoities. On these occasions it was only the Shanars who were attacked, the other classes either joining the attacking force in the plunder or quietly looking on. The Nadars meanwhile were not idle but were keeping the authorities informed by telegrams of their fears. From the 26th May such telegrams were being sent to the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Magistrate. The prosecution case was that the authorities were, as a mattter of fact, kept informed of what was alleged to be going on. The question whether the information conveyed ought or ought not to have impressed the authorities with the seriousness of situation was one with which the prosecution was not concerned. The prosecution was content to show that the plans for the attack on Sivakási were long maturing, that the ringleaders concerned were acting openly, and that the very day and the hour of the intended attack were known previously. Besides the Shanars, the Christian Missionaries were aware of what was going on, and what was to take place at Sivakási. There were on the spot a Sub-Magistrate and a Police Inspector, they knew of what was going on. They kept the Divisional Magistrate informed of the state of things and they told the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police that Sivakási was to be attacked on the 6th June. The Sub-Magistrate officially, within whose jurisdiction lay the villages that were attacked before the 5th June, had informed the Divisional Magistrate that all these attacks were due to the feeling against Sivakási Shanars, and it was also on record that these attacks before the 6th June were by the smaller gangs that were gathering for the attack of Sivakási. The information was available early enough, in point of time and with sufficient fullness as to details to support the prosecution case that the attack was deliberately planned and carried out."

(*g*) With reference to the matters disclosed in clauses (*a*) to (*f*) of this question, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what precautionary measures were taken by the district authorities for the purposes of preventing the riots?

(*h*) Will Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points?—

(i) Number of persons killed at Sivakási on the 6th June 1899, the date of the riots.

(ii) Number of persons fatally wounded on the above date, and who died subsequently.

(iii) Number of persons wounded on the above date, but subsequently recovered.

(iv) Number of houses and other buildings burnt or otherwise destroyed at Sivakási on the above date.

(v) Extent of other loss caused by the rioters at Sivakási on the above date in the matter of cattle, grain, money and jewels, &c.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The whole question of the circumstances which led up to the recent disturbances in Tinnevelly is now under the consideration of Government and orders will shortly issue on the subject. If the Honourable Member will repeat his question at the next meeting * of the Council, the Government will endeavour to place at his disposal such papers as will afford the information which he desires.

* 966 *infra*, p. 343.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

910 [XIX] *Question*.—With reference to G.O., No. 1697 L., dated the 22nd August 1899, which announces that the Mysore Government has declined to supply preserved vaccine lymph to Municipal Councils and District Boards, will Government be pleased to take steps to open and maintain a vaccine institute of its own for making the supply?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—This subject is now under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

† 824 *supra*, p. 296.

911 [XX] *Question*.—With reference to the question No. VII † asked by me at the Council meeting of the 7th April last regarding the private practice of Mr. R. A. Nelson, Principal of the Law College, and the reply of Government that it was not then prepared to make a statement, will it be pleased to state if any decision has been now arrived at in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—No decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

912 [XXI] *Question*.—(*a*) Has Government any information regarding a proposal to abolish the Board Middle School at Kasaragod (South Canara) in favour of a mission or other agency, and the protest of the people of Kasaragod against such abolition addressed to the Director of Public Instruction?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to see that the wishes of the people concerned are consulted before it sanctions the proposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has no information on this subject.

(*b*) Any representations which may be made on such a proposal will be duly considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

913 [XXII] *Question*.—With reference to question No. VIII *, dated the 7th April last, on the subject of the alleged irregularities in the plague camp at Tadpatri, will Government be pleased to call for the records in the calendar case on the file of the Deputy Magistrate of Gooty in which the hospital assistant attached to the camp was charged with extortion from passengers and prosecuted under its orders, and satisfy itself as to the correctness of the Magistrate's judgment of acquittal, in view to an appeal being preferred to the High Court?

* 825 *supra*, p. 296.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Collector's report on the matter has not yet been received. When it has been, the matter will receive due consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

914 [XXIII] *Question*.—With reference to section 562 of the amended Code of Criminal Procedure, Act V of 1898, will Government be pleased to cause a statement to be prepared, showing the instances in which first offenders were subjected to an order under that section from the date of the coming into operation of the section till the end of calendar year 1898, and placed on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has already, in its review of the report on the administration of Criminal Justice during 1898, requested the High Court to append to its annual reports in future such a statement as is desired by the Honourable Member. The Government does not consider it necessary now to call for a similar statement in regard to the year 1898.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

915 [XXIV] *Question*.—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph in the *Madras Standard* of the 11th October 1899 referring to the currency of rumours that some of the native apothecaries employed in the Madras General Hospital are in the habit of receiving money from the in-patients and that those who refuse to pay are subjected to all sorts of inconveniences?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to direct an enquiry into the complaint and call for a report?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has perused the paragraph referred to. The matter will be brought to the notice of the Surgeon-General.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

916 [XXV] *Question*.—Will Government be pleased to state whether proposals for strengthening the staff and the establishment of the College of Civil Engineering have been submitted to it, and whether any decision has been arrived at?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Yes. The proposals for strengthening the staff of the college, made by the Director of Public Instruction, have been generally approved.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

917 [XXVI] *Question*.—Since the replies were made by Government to the questions † by myself and the Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghavachariyar at the meeting

† 869 and 871 *supra*, pp. 313, and 315 respectively.

of the Council held on the 6th June 1899 on the subject of the Municipality of Srívilliputtúr, will Government be pleased to state whether any fresh enquiry was ordered by it into the representation of the rate-payers that they were unable to maintain a Municipality, and if so, with what result?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—An enquiry was held by the Collector of Tinnevelly into the representations made by the rate-payers of Srívilliputtúr, and the Government has decided that the Municipality should be maintained.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

918 [XXVII] *Question*.—In view of the fact that the raising of the price of quinine from 2 pies to 3 pies per 5-grain powder in sales at the post offices has resulted in a large decrease in the quantities sold, the number of packets sold in 1898–99 being 4,766·14 against 8,605 in the preceding year, will Government be pleased to order a reversion to the old reduced rates of prices?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has already under consideration a reduction in the price of quinine sold at post offices.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

919 [XXVIII] *Question*.—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the inadequacy of the teaching staff of the Medical College at Madras by the Director of Public Instruction and other authorities, and have any, and if so what, steps been taken by Government to supply the defect?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The matter is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

920 [XXIX] *Question*.—With reference to the complaint which has appeared in the columns of the *Madras Mail* of the 14th October 1899, I beg to ask whether it is a fact that passengers arriving at Jalarpet from Kuppam and other uninfected areas are examined at Jalarpet and their tickets punched, with the result that they are furnished with passports at the place of their destination compelling their appearance for medical observation for ten days?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Yes. Kuppam and the other three railway stations on the Madras Railway between Jalarpet and the Mysore frontier are not infected with plague, but the passport rules have been extended to them by Notification No. 530, Part I-A, page 242, *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 20th June 1899, owing to their close proximity to the Mysore province where plague still exists. It was found that people from that Province were travelling by road as far as these stations, and then booking by railway in order to conceal the fact of their having originally started from an infected area and thus evading the taking of passports at their destination.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

921 [XXX] *Question*.—Is the appointment of Storekeeper in the office of the Inspector-General of Police not open to Statutory Natives of India, and if not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why it should be held only by Europeans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The appointment is open to Statutory Natives of India. A copy of G.O., No. 991, Financial, dated 14th September 1899, which deals with the subject referred to by the Honourable Member, will be laid upon the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

922 [XXXI] *Question*.—Is there any rule restricting the post of Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras only to Commissioned officers of the Indian Medical Service, and is there any objection to the appointment being held by a Non-Commissioned officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—There is no rule. Government considers that the appointment should be held by a Commissioned officer, if possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

923 [XXXII] *Question*.—Is it a fact, as stated in the *Hindu* of the 7th October 1899, that the District Judge of Trichinopoly has addressed the Superintendent of Police to institute enquiries into the investments of the earnings made by the members of the bar in that district, and if so, whether such a procedure is legal and meets with the approval of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government has no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

924 [XXXIII] *Question*.—(*a*) Is the Maravar population in the district of Tinnevelly 136,350, and is it a fact that there is only a solitary Maravar school in the whole of the district with 39 pupils on the rolls?

(*b*) In view of the recent disturbances in which the Maravar classes took part, will Government be pleased to take steps to establish schools at every important Maravar centre?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) According to the last Census report, the Maravar population of the Tinnevelly district is 188,977. Maravar schools and pupils are not distinguished in the returns of the Educational Department from schools and pupils belonging to other classes of Hindus, hence no special statistics are available.

(*b*) Government does not consider it to be either necessary or expedient to open special schools for Maravars. As far as the funds at the disposal of Government and Local Boards permit, schools open to all classes of the community are maintained at all the important towns and villages.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

925 [XXXIV] *Question*.—With reference to the following observation of Captain A. E. Grant, Assistant Physician in charge of the wards of the General Hospital, on the sanitation of the Black Town and its ever-increasing malariousness, will Government be pleased to state whether the matter is engaging its attention, and whether remedies to grapple with the serious condition of the town will be devised in the near future?—

"In conclusion, attention must be drawn once more to the fact that the Black Town is becoming year by year more malarious. By far the larger number of bad malarial cases admitted to my wards come, not from the mofussil, but from the densely populated area between the First Line Beach and the Mint Street. Popham's Broadway, Francis Joseph Street, and in fact almost the whole of Black Town, furnishing examples of malaria and its sequelæ, which could not be beaten by Cuddapah, Kurnool or the Wynaad. All suffer alike—Natives, Eurasians and Europeans—save those living under exceptionally good conditions. In my opinion this is a most important matter and something must be done if Black Town is not to become uninhabitable. It is highly probable that the striking increase in this class of cases noticed by me since my return to Madras in 1895 is chiefly due to the heavy rainfall, and consequent high level of the sub-soil water during these years as compared with the years 1890 to 1894 when I first joined the staff of the General Hospital."

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The remarks quoted by the Honourable Member will be communicated to the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, and to the Sanitary Commissioner for consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

926 [XXXV] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which influenced it in dispensing with the police orderlies in the case of minor wayside stations on the South Indian Railway, and the principle which guided the selection of such stations ?

(*b*) Is the new system of posting constables only in the case of important stations, in force on the Madras and other Railways in this Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Experience having proved that it was unnecessary to maintain policemen at minor wayside stations, they were withdrawn from stations where owing to the insignificance of traffic no special police protection was called for.

(*b*) Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

927 [XXXVI] *Question.*—With reference to the notification of Government in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 30th August 1899, Judicial Department, withdrawing the privilege of trial by jury in the riot cases in Tinnevelly, will Government be pleased to state the reasons as to why this measure was necessary ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A copy of G.O., No. 1384, Judicial, dated 30th August 1899, will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

928 [XXXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has Government received a memorial from the salt licensees of *Arsady Factory*, Tuticorin Circle, representing the want of a proper road from their factory to the railway station at Tuticorin, and stating that the Deputy Commissioner, Southern Division, of Salt and Abkári Revenue has declined to attend to their wants unless they advanced the whole amount required for the road ?

(*b*) Is the Deputy Commissioner justified in deciding that the cost of the road should be borne by the licensees ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any and what action has been taken upon the memorial ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The memorial has been received since the Honourable Member put his question.

The petitioners will be told to appeal to the Board of Revenue before addressing the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

929 [XXXVIII] *Question.*—With reference to my questions Nos. XII and VII * asked at the Council meetings of the 7th April and the 6th June current, respectively, on the subject of the appointment of Civil Assistant Surgeons as Civil Surgeons, will Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to appoint to the Civil Surgency of Tellicherry, vacated by Captain Charles Donovan, I.M.S., a Commissioned officer or a Civil Assistant Surgeon ?

* 129 and 857 *supra*, pp. 297 and 309 respectively.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—A Commissioned officer has already been appointed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

930 [XXXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it not the policy of Government that, where a reasonable expectation of a thirty years' term has been created in the minds of the people by past practice, that term should be adhered to as the normal term of settlement ?

(*b*) Is it not the case that in this Presidency a widespread impression prevails among the bulk of the population that a thirty years' term is an essential feature of the Ryotwari system ?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that in consequence thereof Government declared at the recent settlement of Tanjore that its duration should be thirty years ?

(*d*) If the policy of Government is as stated above, will Government be pleased to direct the modification of the Board's Standing Order No. 1 and of the corresponding provisions of the Settlement Manual, so as to bring them into conformity with the said policy, and to thereby remove the impression conveyed to the people, since the amendment of the said Standing Order in May 1895, that Government has the discretion to fix at each settlement or re-settlement of a district the period for which such settlement or re-settlement shall be in force ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—The policy of Government is not quite correctly stated, and the Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question XLV * in the meeting held on 9th December 1896 (Proceedings of Council, Volume XXIV, page 365).

* 418 *supra*, p. 151.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

931 [XL] *Question.*—(*a*) Have District Registrars been required to furnish the Inspector-General of Registration with any statistics in regard to the economic condition of the agricultural population of their districts ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to obtain and lay on the table any such statistics submitted by the District Registrars of Gódávari and Kistna for the five years ending with 1897-98 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is requested to repeat his question at the next meeting † of the Council.

† 977 *infra*, p. 349.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

932 [XLI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 488, dated 8th July 1897, returning to Government, with remarks, memorials from the Gódávari District Association regarding the re-settlement of the district ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—The paper will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

933 [XLII] *Question.*—In the Annual Administration Report for 1898, the Acting Inspector-General of Police, in speaking of the administration of the Police in the Kistna and Bellary districts, made the following remarks :—

Paragraph 36.—"In Kistna detection is as unsatisfactory under this head (dacoity) as under murder, and no explanation has been attempted by Mr. Hasted. The Kistna Police have for many years been most feeble in the matter of handling grave crime . . . ."

"The state of affairs in Bellary is truly deplorable. The number of dacoities rose from 25 to 30, which is the highest on record during the last six years, while detection was absolutely *nil*."

Paragraph 41.—"The Ceded Districts show poor results as usual, Bellary being the worst this year. The figures indicate incompetency of the Police in the detection of cases as well as their prosecution before courts."

In reviewing this report, Government observed :—

Paragraph 10.—"Kistna was unfortunate in its Police administration; only one out of eighteen murder cases was detected, and out of 183 persons tried for dacoity only twenty were convicted; detection in burglaries was also poor. The results in Bellary continued to deteriorate. Thirty dacoities are reported without a single detection, and only one out of twenty-three murders ended in conviction. In the detection of house-breakings and robberies also there is room for much improvement. Police work in this district has shown unsatisfactory results for some years past . . . ."

(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any and, if so, what steps have been taken for improving the efficiency of the Police in the said districts?

(*b*) Has any scheme been definitely decided upon for the prevention of crime and detection of the dacoities that are of frequent occurrence between Hospet and Kúdligi, either by employing a special detective party or by improving the existing Ghât Talayari system?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) More attention is being paid by the police in Kistna to the detection of grave crime in that district. An improvement in the Talayari system is under consideration and the Inspector-General has in view the deputation of some special Inspectors on detective duty.

(*b*) The Inspector-General has under consideration a scheme for strengthening the Talayari staff. A special detective party has been organized in Bellary. The *temporary* entertainment of 128 additional Ghât Talayaris has already been sanctioned.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

934 [XLIII] *Question.*—Will the Government state the circumstances which have led to the change in the Madras Educational Rules forbidding managers and teachers of aided institutions from taking part, directly or indirectly, in political movements or agitation without the previous sanction of the Director of Public Instruction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to do so.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

935 [XLIV] *Question.*—Will Government lay on the table all the correspondence on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to do so.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. NORTON :—

936 [XLV] *Question.*—Will the Government, in view of the many interests touched and of the public dissatisfaction already evoked by the notification in question, withdraw the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to comply with the suggestion of the Honourable Member, but will give careful consideration to any representation that may be made to it on the subject. The new Educational Rules will not come into operation until the 1st April 1900, and therefore there is plenty of time for the consideration of any representations which may be made respecting the Rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

937 [XLVI] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which influenced it in introducing a rule in the revised Educational Grant-in-aid Code prohibiting the managers and teachers of aided institutions from taking part in political movements, either directly or indirectly, without the previous consent of the Director of Public Instruction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question XLIII * put by the Hon'ble Mr. Norton.

* 934 *supra*, p. 334.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

938 [XLVII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the new provision in the Madras Grant-in-aid Code that every application for aid made by the manager of an institution shall contain a declaration to the effect that he and the teachers of the institution will not take part, either directly or indirectly, in political movements or agitation, and that further they will not, without the previous permission of the Director of Public Instruction, attend political meetings, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which these new conditions of aid have been deemed necessary?

(*b*) Has the Government made any rules for the Director's guidance in this particular? If not, is it the intention of Government to do so?

(*c*) Have persons dissatisfied with the decision of the Director a right of appeal to the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question XLIII † put by the Hon'ble Mr. Norton.

† *ibid.*

(*b*) No. The Government has not at present thought it necessary to issue any rules.

(*c*) The right of appeal to Government against an order of the Director of Public Instruction is not removed.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

939 [XLVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it was deemed necessary that trials in connection with the recent riots in the Tinnevelly and Madura districts should not, as hitherto, be by jury, but with the aid of assessors.

(*b*) Is it a fact that the District Magistrates of those districts did not suggest the above course, and the District Magistrate of Tinnevelly suggested that the Additional Sessions Judge might hold his court in some other district?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in addition to the opinion of the Special Commissioner it had any evidence before it that men could not be had in those districts who, by their special educational and other qualifications, were competent to try the riot cases divesting themselves of any information they might have received outside the court?

(*d*) Have the provisions of section 325 of the Criminal Procedure Code relating to trials by specially-qualified jurors been extended to those districts, and if so, when?

31. MEETING OF THE 19TH DECEMBER 1899.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

946 [I] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to reconsider its decision as regards the utilization of the Vellore mosque as a store-house in view of the following sentiments of the late Court of Directors, published in Board's Standing Order No. 139 ?—

"We think it further necessary to draw your attention to the sentiments conveyed to you in our Despatches of the 23rd February 1813, paragraph 26, and 26th April 1820, paragraphs 131 to 133, viz., that the credit of our administration is connected with the preservation of such a memorial of the former splendour of the Indian Empire, and that it is essential to the character of our Government that the religious prejudices and rights of the natives, whether of the Muhammadan or Hindu persuasion, should, on all occasions, be respected and maintained. We find it difficult to reconcile with these sentiments the idea of Akber's tomb at Secundra being employed as a receptacle for prisoners, and unless you shall be of opinion that there is ample ground for our being satisfied on that point, we desire that such an appropriation of the building may be immediately discontinued."

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—This building has been used for secular purposes for some seventy or eighty years, and the Government sees no reason for reconsidering a decision arrived at so long ago and since maintained.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

947 [II] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to take the opportunity when introducing the revised salary scheme of the Registration Department, recently sanctioned by the Secretary of State, to appoint deserving Muhammadans to the higher grades of Sub-Registrarship ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The re-organization of the Registration Department to which the Honourable Member refers does not involve the addition of any new appointments in the higher grades of the department. It therefore affords no opportunity of appointing as Sub-Registrars persons not already in the department. The position on the list, which will be occupied under the new scheme by officers already serving in the department, must depend solely upon individual merit, and Government cannot undertake to take into account considerations of creed or race.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

948 [III] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the Government aware of the fact that, though the proper registration fee on a document accepted at the private residence of a *Gosha* lady may be as low as annas eight, a maximum fee of Rs. 15 has to be charged by the registration officer for attending at the private residence of the *Gosha* lady and for procuring her identification by means of a *Hammamni* in addition to the usual travelling allowance for the journey to and from the private residence ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to reduce the fee referred to from Rs. 15 to Rs. 5 in the case of documents presented at the private residence of *Gosha* ladies, especially as the present fee has become a source of great hardship to poor, but respectable Muhammadan families, so much so that there is reason to believe that many documents of small values executed by *Gosha* ladies are not at all brought for registration ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Under clause 10 of the Table of Fees prepared under section 78 of the Indian Registration Act a fee of Rs. 10 is payable for the attendance of Registering officers at the private residences of persons desiring to have their documents registered at their houses. The fee for the services of a Hammamni required for the examination of gosha ladies is Rs. 5.

(*b*) The Government is not prepared to make any reduction in the fees referred to. The Inspector-General has authority under the rules to remit the fees in cases where the charge would be productive of hardship.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

949 [IV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to direct heads of departments to state, in their future administration reports, to what extent they have found it possible to comply with the orders on the subject of Mahammadan employment, in the same way as the Local Government does in relation to the Supreme Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to comply with the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

950 [V] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to appoint a Committee of members of the leading Muhammadan Associations in Madras to enquire into and report on the subject of Muhammadan employment, especially as it is closely connected with the social and political advancement of the community ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government does not consider that the appointment of such a committee would serve any useful purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

951 [VI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to take an early opportunity to award to a deserving Muhammadan candidate the scholarship payable for the prosecution of studies in England ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Under the rules in force for the award of the scholarship, the selection of candidates rests with the Vice-Chancellor of the University on the recommendation of the Syndicate and not with Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

952 [VII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to move the Government of India to make a provision in the Bill to amend the Religious Endowments Act to the effect that the income derived from inams which may not be appropriated for the purposes for which they were originally intended be devoted to Educational purposes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to comply with the Honourable Member's suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question XXXVI. *

* 927 *supra*, p. 332.

(*b*) The District Magistrate of Tinnevelly agreed with the Special Commissioner in the course he suggested. The District Magistrate of Madura was not consulted in the matter.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes. The Honourable Member is referred to the notification published at page 1359 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 10th November 1896.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

940 [XLIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Civil Assistant Surgeons appointed temporarily in the year 1895 and subsequently have been transferred to the permanent list?

(*b*) Is it a fact that there are now fifteen or sixteen temporary Civil Assistant Surgeons appointed from 1895, and will the Government be pleased to state what chances these officers have of being appointed to the permanent service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Sixteen Civil Assistant Surgeons have been appointed temporarily since 1895. None of these officers have as yet been transferred to the permanent list. Their chances of permanent promotion depends upon the decision of Government upon certain proposals for the reorganization of the Subordinate Medical Department which will soon come under consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR :—

941 [L] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any distress in the Presidency in consequence of the failure and lateness of the monsoons this year? If so, in what parts, and will the Government be pleased to state what measures it is adopting for the relief of the people affected by it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—No distress from failure of crops exists at present, and unless further unusual drought occurs none need be apprehended. The high price of dry food grains at present prevailing is chiefly due to extensive exports to the north.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

942 [LI] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which necessitated the inclusion of a clause in rule 2, chapter II of the revised Grant-in-aid Code, published in the issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 31st October 1899, whereby managers and teachers of grant-in-aid institutions are precluded from taking part, either directly or indirectly, in political movements or agitation and from attending political meetings without the previous consent of the Director of Public Instruction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question XLIII † put by the Hon'ble Mr. Norton.

† 934 *supra*, p. 334.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

943 [LII] *Question.*—Has anything transpired in this Presidency which necessitates the enforcement of this rule as a condition precedent to recognition for grant? If so, will the Government be pleased to state such facts?

The Honb'le Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to make a statement on the subject.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

944 [LIII] *Question.*—Have any rules been laid down for the guidance of the Director of Public Instruction for granting or refusing his consent to such managers and teachers for attending political meetings? If so, will the Government be pleased to state them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer—No, none.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

945 [LIV] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence, if any, which led up to the issue of the said rule in the Grant-in-aid Code?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question XLIV * put by the Hon'ble Mr. Norton.

* 935 *supra* p. 334.

The Hon'ble Mr. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIYAR *for* the Hon'ble Mr. GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

953 [VIII] *Question.*—Will the Government be pleased to provide for the proper representation of Muhammadans and other backward classes in the Bill to amend the Local Boards Act now before the Council ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government is not prepared to legislate in favour of the representation of special classes. The Honourable Member is however requested to address to the Select Committee any remarks on the subject he may desire to make.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

954 [IX] *Question.*—With reference to the Hon'ble Mr. Jambulingam Mudalyar's question No. LVII * of 9th December 1896, and my questions Nos. IX † and XII ‡, asked at the meetings of the 23rd November 1897 and 13th December 1898, respectively, on the subject of the equalization of the process fees levied in the Civil Courts of all grades, and the reply of Government that the matter was still under consideration, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what decision has been arrived at ?

* 430 *supra*, p. 155.
† 576 *supra*, p. 209.
‡ 737 *supra*, p. 264.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The matter is under the consideration of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

955 [X] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that the wooden overbridges at the Tiruválúr and Máyavaram Junctions of the South Indian Railway are exposed to the sun without roofs, and that passengers walking over them experience great suffering owing to the pavement planks being heated up ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the attention of the railway authorities has been drawn to the grievance without effect, and will Government be pleased to cause the want to be supplied ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Government is aware that, like numerous similar structures all over India, the footbridge under reference is not roofed.

(*b*) Government fails to see greater reason for roofing this particular footbridge than for roofing the numerous others of the same class, throughout the country.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

956 [XI] *Question.*—(*a*) Is it a fact that the Abkári policy of Government under which the revenue depends upon the number of trees marked for tapping for fermented liquor has affected prejudicially the industry in palm jaggery which is made from unfermented toddy ?

(*b*) Is Government aware that there is a general complaint on that score in the jaggery districts ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the exports of jaggery from Madras and the outports of the Presidency have decreased from 1,297,855 cwts. in 1893 to 267,569 cwts. in 1898, while the amount of the tree-tax has increased from Rs. 21,40,017 to Rupees 38,68,218 during the same period ?

(*d*) Is such decrease in the exports of jaggery in any wise attributable to the system of raising revenue referred to in clause (*a*) of this question ?

(*e*) If not, is the decrease accountable in any other way ?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to take steps to place the jaggery industry upon a more efficient footing ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is requested to be good enough to repeat his question at the next meeting *.

* 26, Vol. II, p. 9.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

957 [XII] *Question.*—(*a*) Have any proposals for the improvement of the position and prospects of the Civil Hospital Assistants been formulated and approved in principle by the Madras Government and the Government of India ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the scheme has been held in abeyance ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government of India have decided that the scheme is not, at present, applicable to this Presidency.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

958 [XIII] *Question.*—Is there any scheme in contemplation to introduce pipe water in Saidapet, and has the feasibility of extending the Red Hills' supply to that place been ascertained ?

The Hon'blr Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Sanitary Engineer has lately been requested to undertake the preparation of a scheme for the water-supply of Saidapet. As regards the feasibility of extending the Red Hills' supply to the town, the Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 110 of the Sanitary Engineer's administration report for 1893.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

959 [XIV] *Question.*—In view of the fact that during 1897, out of a total of 21,678 deaths from small-pox in the whole Presidency, the single district of Ganjám contributed no less than 14,515 deaths or more than two-thirds of the total number of deaths, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what measures are proposed to be taken to place the vaccination work in that district on a more efficient footing ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 20 of the report on Vaccination in the Madras Presidency for the year 1897-98.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

960 [XV] *Question.*—In view of the fact that serious inconvenience is caused to people by want of village roads and communications from one village to another, especially during the cultivation and rainy seasons, will Government be pleased to invite the attention of the District and Taluk Boards to the matter, and instruct them to allot a fixed percentage of the road-cess for expenditure under the above head ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government has in its order No. 1686 L., dated 14th September 1895, prescribed a minimum to be allotted for expenditure on roads generally, and does not consider it necessary to lay down a similar minimum in the case of village communications, as the distribution of the grant for commuications among the several classes of roads is more properly left to the discretion of the Local Boards.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

961 [XVI] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether under clause (*a*), section 13 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (Act IX of 1890), His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has appointed any time within which the railway administration in charge of the Máyavaram-Mutupet line is required to provide it with fencing?

(*b*) If not, whether Government will be pleased to take the necessary steps to provide the line in question with fencing, in view of its present unfenced condition and consequent risk to human beings and cattle?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is referred to a letter No. 2944 C., dated the 29th July 1896, from the Secretary, Public Works Department, Railways, to the President, District Board, Tanjore, in which it was mentioned that to efficiently fence the Máyavaram-Mutupet Railway would cost Rupees 1,40,000.

As under existing arrangements this sum must be supplied by the Tanjore District Board; and as the efforts now being made by that Board, in concert with Government, for financing the Avadaiyárkóvil extension would so be rendered ineffectual; and as, in the opinion of the Government Inspector of Railways, Madras, as well as of the Agent, South Indian Railway Company, fencing is not at present demanded in the interests of the travelling public; Government does not propose to press the District Board to have the line fenced.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

962 [XVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is there any objection to locating the District Munsif's Court of Tirumangalam (Madura) in Tirumangalam itself instead of in the town of Madura as at present?

(*b*) In view of the convenience to suitors, will Government be pleased to direct the location of the Court in Tirumangalam, which is the head-quarters of a taluk and is also otherwise of sufficient importance?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—Under section 5 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, the location of a District Munsif's Court rests with the High Court and not with Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

963 [XVIII] *Question.*—Whether in view of the fact that the taluk of Pattukkóttai (Tanjore) is unconnected with other portions of the district by railway and in consideration of the convenience of the ryot population, will Government be pleased to direct the head-quarters of the Pattukkóttai division to be located at that place itself instead of at Tanjore as at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The suggestion will be referred to the Collector of the district for his remarks.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

964 [XIX] *Question.*—Whether, in view of the crowded condition of the City of Madura, and in consideration of the convenience of suitors, Government will be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of locating the West Madura Subordinate Court in Dindigul?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The suggestion will be considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

* **965** [XX] *Question.*—(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the article in the issue, dated the 17th December 1898, of the *Vara Varthamani*, a Tamil weekly published at Pollachi (Coimbatore), on the "Coimbatore south forest grievances," and on the ravages committed by herds of wild elephants from the *Anamalais* on cultivation? * Same as 42, Vol. II, p. 15.

(*b*) Whether, when the ryots of *Sethumadai* village (Pollachi) petitioned the Collector in September of last year for protection, they were advised to plant only *castor* oil plants in the immediate vicinity of the forest, under the belief that a belt of *castor* a hundred yards wide would keep elephants out of the *cholum* beyond?

(*c*) Whether the ryots have brought to the notice of the District authorities that the castor plants afford no protection against the inroads of the elephants; that these plants also continue to be destroyed by the latter; and that their grievances still remain unredressed?

(*d*) Whether any remissions were granted to the ryots during the last fasli as claimed by them on account of the destruction of their crops by the elephants?

(*e*) Whether any loss of human lives has been caused last year by the descent of these elephants into the outskirts of the villages?

(*f*) Whether Government will be pleased to issue orders to the Forest department to prevent the descent of the wild elephants from the hills into the plains below by the excavation of trenches at the outer limits of the reserved forests, and by the entertainment of shikaries to be on the watch at those limits?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The subject of the Honourable Member's questions has been referred to the Collector for report.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

966 [XXI] *Question.*—Question No. XVIII † asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November 1899 :— † 909 *supra*, p. 326.

"XVIII (*a*) Is it a fact that one Pera Sinnanna Nadar of Sivakási despatched the following telegram on the 5th of June 1899, *i.e.*, the day preceding the riots at that place, to the Superintendent of Police of Tinnevelly?—

'After Honour's visit here on the 31st May, I hear Iyempati, Karvisalkulam, Kongankulam, Kattanarpati, Satisarati, Aneikuttam are plundered day time by Maravars, Kallars, Pallars being helped by other caste people. Pushakavatti, two miles from here, was plundered yesterday. My caste people only sustain loss. Notice to the effect that Sivakási will be plundered on the 6th, Tuesday, is known. My caste people fear, as no precaution, and after attempt, are taken by native officials here to the people whose properties are plundered. I have seen mobs 200—300 in number. I humbly crave Honour to take immediate steps before plunder and murder. Notwithstanding crying for protection of person and property, by wire and petitions, your Honour didn't believe the facts; but if your Honour be pleased to stay here for a few days, evidence will be personally known. There will be no plunder and murder at all if your Honour be pleased to arrest Vellia Thevan *alias* Veerappa Thevan, Naduvapatti, and Vendar Arumugam Pillai, Sivakási.'

"(*b*) Is it a fact the same person despatched on the same date, *i.e.*, the day preceding the date of the riots at Sivakási, the following telegram to the District Magistrate, Tinnevelly?—

'I crave Honour sufficient protection of person and property is indispensable to Sivakási Nadars from marauding of Maravars and their addition which will commence 6th, Tuesday morning, as several adjoining villages have been plundered and their booties are carried in carts only in day time. Government native officials here take no steps before or after. Honour's presence with Police Superintendent is indispensable here for a week at least from Monday. Cause of plunder and murder by Maravars and their addition in several village is higher authorities disbelieving telegrams and petitions of my innocent caste people at beginning but believing words and tricks of Government native officials here. There will be no plunder and murder elsewhere, if Vendar Arumugam Pillai, Vellia Thevan, Naduvapatti, are arrested. Sivákasi Nadars tremble that mobs have fixed Tuesday for their plunder and murder as the mobs have already fulfilled their mischiefs in several villages according to their words. Precaution is indispensable before plunder and murder.

"(*c*) Is it a fact that the Assistant Superintendent of Police of Tinnevelly recommended towards the end of April last that a Magistrate should be stationed at Sivakási in view of the strained relation between the Shanars and other classes, and what action was taken upon such recommendation if it had been made?

"(*d*) Is it a fact that the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police visited Sivakási on the 31st May and the 5th June 1899, and that the Police Inspector, Parthasaradhi Aiyangar, had reported to them that Sivakási would possibly be attacked on the 6th of June 1899?

"(*e*) What was the Police force available at Sivakási on the day of the riots, and what part did they take in the suppression of the riots?

"(*f*) Is the following opening speech of Mr. Sankaran Nayar, Government Pleader, made in the Court of the Additional Sessions Judge of Tinnevelly in the trial of Sivakási rioters, Vaduganada Thevan and 92 others, correctly reported by the *Madras Mail* in its issue of the 13th October 1899?—

'The situation was considered so serious that the Sub-Magistrate of Virudupatti was stationed at Sivakási till about the end of May. From the end of April negotiations were going on between the Shanars and Maravars in view to an amicable settlement of the dispute but to no purpose. The Missionaries of Sachiapuram did what they could, but the Maravars insisting on the exclusion of the Shanars from the temple nothing came of it. But they obtained pledges of immunity for themselves—pledges that were faithfully kept. Towards the end of May, matters became more serious. From acts of lawlessness on the part of individual Maravars and Shanars, it came to a matter of riots between the Maravars as a class and Shanars as a class. The public roads were rendered unsafe and villages were attacked wholesale and all sorts of serious offences were perpetrated. The first of such riots attended with dacoity, etc., occurred on the 23rd May and cases continued to occur on the following days. On the 24th, 26th, 27th, 29th and 30th villages were thus attacked. On the 31st May two villages were attacked, two others again on the 1st June, four on the 2nd June, three on the 4th June, two on the 5th June and four on the 6th June, exclusive of the big riot at Sivakási. A point about these riots was that the earlier riots occurred at night; but, owing apparently to the fact that the inquiries made into these earlier riots were not efficiently full and complete to observe the rioters, the latter became more and more bold and reckless, and from midnight dacoities they ventured on broad daylight dacoities. On these occasions it was only the Shanars who were attacked, the other classes either joining the attacking force in the plunder or quietly looking on. The Nadars meanwhile were not idle, but were keeping the authorities informed by telegrams of their fears. From the 26th May such telegrams were being sent to the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Magistrate. The prosecution case was that the authorities were, as a matter of fact, kept informed of what was alleged to be going on. The question whether the information conveyed ought or ought not to have impressed the authorities with the seriousness of the situation was one with which the prosecution was not concerned The prosecution was content to show that the plans for the attack on Sivakási were long maturing; that the ringleaders concerned were acting openly; and that the very day and the hour of the intended attack were known previously. Besides the Shanars, the Christian Missionaries were aware of what was going on, and what was to take place at Sivakási. There were on the spot a Sub-Magistrate and a Police Inspector; they knew of what was going on. They kept the Divisional Magistrate informed of the state of things, and they told the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police that Sivakási was to be attacked on the 6th June. The Sub-Magistrate, officially within whose jurisdiction lay the villages that were attacked before the 6th June, had informed the Divisional Magistrate that all these attacks were due to the feeling against the Sivakási Shanars, and it was also on record that these attacks before the 6th June were by the smaller gangs that were gathering for the attack of Sivakási. The information was available early enough, in point of time and with sufficient fullness as to details to support the prosecution case that the attack was deliberately planned and carried out.'

"(*g*) With reference to the matters disclosed in clauses (*a*) to (*f*) of this question, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what precautionary measures were taken by the district authorities for the purpose of preventing the riots?

"(*h*) Will Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points?—

(i) Number of persons killed at Sivakási on the 6th June 1899, the date of the riots.

(ii) Number of persons fatally wounded on the above date, and who died subsequently.

(iii) Number of persons wounded on the above date, but subsequently recovered.

(iv) Number of houses and other buildings burnt or otherwise destroyed at Sivakási on the above date.

(v) Extent of other loss caused by the rioters at Sivakási on the above date in the matter of cattle, grain, money and jewels, etc."

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

Answer.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government has no information.

(*c*) Yes.

A Magistrate was kept at or in the vicinity of Sivakási from the beginning of May until the date of the riots, with the exception of four days at the end of May.

(*d*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Government has no information to show that any such report as is alluded to by the Honourable Member was made by the Inspector of Police.

(*e*) The Police present at the time of the riot consisted of two Inspectors, three head constables and thirty-three constables.

The Police appear to have done little or nothing to suppress the riot.

(*f*) The Government has no information.

(*g*) The Police at Sivakási were strengthened and a Magistrate was ordered to remain in the neighbourhood of the town. Extra police were called for from other districts, and orders were issued for the establishment of daily beats between Sivakási and the neighbouring villages.

(*h*) (i) Twenty-three.

(ii) One, as far as is known.

(iii) The Government has no information.

(iv) Eight hundred and eighty-six.

(v) The loss as estimated by the Shanars was Rs. 43,000, but the amount is reported by the Special Commissioner to be exaggerated.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

967 [XXII] *Question.*—(*a*) With reference to the memorial dated the 26th October 1899, submitted to His Excellency the Governor in Council by the Madras Landholders' Association praying that, for the reasons stated in it, the short Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Bhashyam Aiyangar to amend the Rent Recovery Act VIII of 1865, may be passed into law without loss of time, will Government be pleased to state whether it is its intention to comply with the prayer of the memorialists?

(*b*) Whether in view of the circumstance that the Land Bill now in the hands of the Select Committee may take a long time before it becomes law, and in view of the hardships experienced by the landholders under the existing law as pointed out by the memorialists, Government will be pleased to bring forward the Hon'ble Mr. Bhashyam Aiyangar's Bill during the current session of the Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

Answer.—The Government does not at present propose to move in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

968 [XXIII] *Question.*—With reference to clause (3) of section 14 of the amended District Municipalities Act, 1884, will Government be pleased to state whether it has interpreted in practice the clause to mean that its previous sanction is necessary each time a Municipal Council elects a Vice-Chairman, and whether it has cancelled any election under such interpretation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

969 [XXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Has any portion of the expenses of defending the prisoners (Sesha Chari and Swaminatha Aiyar) in the Police Extortion case recently tried in the High Court Sessions been defrayed by Government, and if so, what were the circumstances under which it was thought necessary to incur the expenditure ?

(*b*) If such expenditure has been already incurred by Government, will any, and what, steps be taken to recover the same from the prisoners whose trial had ended in conviction ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) In accordance with the provisions of Police Order No. 288 the accused Sesha Chari and Swaminatha Aiyar in the Police Extortion case recently tried at the High Court Sessions received an advance from public funds to engage counsel for their defence.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

970 [XXV] *Question.*—Will Government be pleased to order an enquiry into the circumstances under which the original gambling case instituted by the City Police against the Sowcars in the Police Court in the beginning of the current year was allowed to be withdrawn—a proceeding which has been characterized by the learned Chief Justice as a "somewhat unusual and startling procedure" ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—The question is under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

971 [XXVI] *Question.*—Is it the intention of Government to appoint a committee of enquiry into the system of Police administration in the City of Madras, having regard to the disclosures made in the late trial of the Police Extortion case before the Honourable the Chief Justice ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

Answer.—The answer is in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

972 [XXVII] *Question.*—(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if any steps have been taken to carry out the following recommendations of the Education Commission ?—

(i) That an attempt be made to prepare a moral text-book, based on fundamental principles of natural religion, such as may be taught in all Government and non-Government Colleges.

(ii) That the Principal or one of the Professors in each Government and Aided College deliver to each of the College classes in every session a series of lectures on the duties of a man and the citizen.

(*b*) Have these recommendations been carried out ? If not, will Government be pleased to take them now into its favourable consideration and adopt steps to give practical effect to them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

Answer.—(*a*) No. The recommendations referred to were not supported by the Government of India or the Secretary of State in reviewing the report of the Education Commission.

(*b*) No ; on these points this Government shares the views of the Government of India stated in that Government's Resolution No. 10—309, dated 23rd October 1884, paragraph 28.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

973 [XXVIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following provisions contained in the Bombay Land Revenue Code ?—

"In the year in the course of which a survey-settlement, whether original or revised, may be introduced, the difference between the old and the new assessment of all lands on which the latter may be in excess of the former shall be remitted, and the revised assessment shall be levied only from the next following year.

"In the year next following that in which any original or revised survey-settlement has been introduced, any occupant who may be dissatisfied with the increased rate imposed by such new assessment on any of the survey numbers held by him shall, on resigning such number before the 31st March, receive a remission of the increase so imposed."

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of applying a similar concession to the ryotwari holdings in this province and to direct its application in the revision settlement to be introduced during the current year in the Gódávari and Kistna districts ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Government has read the section referred to.

(*b*) In many respects the increment remission rules of this Presidency are much more favourable to the ryot than the rules quoted by the Honourable Member.

The object of not charging the new rates in the year of introduction of a settlement is to give the ryots the opportunity of relinquishing any land which they may consider overassessed. The Government believes that few, if any, instances of such relinquishment can be quoted in this Presidency, and regards it as unnecessary to make a special rule for such exceptional cases.

The answer to this part of the question is therefore in the negative.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

974 [XXIX] *Question.*—(*a*) Is the rule requiring a Deputy Commissioner to arrange the grouping of villages "with the aid of a well-constituted panchayat, selected from respectable ryots, who may fairly represent the community of the several localities" now in force ? If not, when and why was it cancelled ?

(*b*) Having regard to the fact that such means of obtaining the opinion of the ryots is in accordance with the views of the Honourable Court of Directors, expressed in paragraph 20 of their despatch, No. 17, of the 17th December 1856, will Government be pleased to consider the propriety of restoring the said rule ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The Honourable Member apparently refers to a statement in the Settlement Manual. This statement reproduces an instruction issued in 1858 by Mr. Newill, then Director of Revenue Settlement, to his Deputies. This procedure recommended by Mr. Newill has long fallen generally into desuetude.

(*b*) The Government does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by reviving the rule as to panchayats.

When a settlement scheme is under preparation, the grouping of villages and all other connected questions are discussed with the resident ryots interested. This is entirely in accord with the views expressed by the Court of Directors in their despatch cited by the Honourable Member which merely pointed out that much useful information may be gathered by consulting the most intelligent and influential inhabitants of the villages in course of assessment.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

975 [XXX] *Question.*—Have the existing orders or rules regarding the conversion into village sites of jeroyati land on which dwelling houses have been built been given effect to in the re-settlement of the Gódávari and Kistna districts? If not, will Government be pleased to issue instructions to give effect to the said orders or rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—The Government does not understand to what existing orders or rules the Honourable Member refers.

The fact that a pattadar builds a house upon his land does not warrant the Government in treating the land as village site poramboke.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

976 [XXXI] *Question.*—(*a*) Was the intermediate rate of water-tax extended to the Gódávari and Kistna deltas in fasli 1307 and was it levied during the said fasli on all " dry " crops which were " systematically " irrigated except turmeric?

(*b*) Did Government withdraw during the currency of fasli 1308 the said rate and charge *full rate* in the case of all crops on which an intermediate rate had been levied in the previous fasli?

(*c*) Was any notice of such withdrawal given to the ryots before their applications for water for irrigation had been accepted? Is it a fact that in some cases the crops were also harvested before the announcement of the said withdrawal to the ryots?

(*d*) What were the reasons which led Government to adopt the said course? Were the District officers consulted before Government determined upon it?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to state the principles regulating the imposition of the intermediate rate and to lay before the Council any rules or orders relating thereto?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) In July 1896, the Government sanctioned the levy of an intermediate rate of Rs. 3 per acre for water used for dry crops systematically irrigated. The rate was introduced into the general scale of water-rates which is not applicable to the Gódávari and Kistna deltas. In 1898 it came to the notice of the Government that the Board had mistakenly prescribed an analogous rate of Rs. 3-12-0 in these areas. The necessary alteration of the Board's orders was then made. The District officers were not consulted before the mistake was corrected. The Government has no further information on the matters referred to in these questions.

(*e*) The intermediate rate is charged for the systematic irrigation of dry crops in areas where the general water-rate rules are applicable. It is left to the discretion of the Collector to decide whether irrigation in any particular case is systematic or occasional. Copies of G.Os., No. 3038, dated 30th July 1896, and No. 345, dated 15th June 1898, will be laid upon the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

977 [XXXII] *Question.*—Question No. XL* asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November 1899 :— * 981 *supra*, p. 383.

" XL. (*a*) Have District Registrars been required to furnish the Inspector-General of Registration with any statistics in regard to the economic condition of the agricultural population of their districts?

" (*b*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table any such statistics submitted by the District Registrars of Gódávari and Kistna for the five years ending with 1897-98?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

Answer.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The statistics received from Gódávari and Kistna are incomplete. The Inspector-General of Registration has called for revised returns which, when received, will be open for inspection by the Honourable Member at the Inspector-General's office.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

978 [XXXIII] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware that karnams have been detained for several months both last year and this year at taluk head-quarters for preparation of settlement accounts in the Gódávari and Kistna districts and that no batta has been paid to them during their stay at such head-quarters?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to sanction batta for the period during which they have been so employed on settlement work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) A settlement occurs only once in a generation, and if the karnams are to learn their work and perform it efficiently their detention at taluk head-quarters while preparing their new village accounts is inevitable. The length of the period of detention will depend on the efficiency of the individual.

(*b*) The Government is not prepared to adopt the Honourable Member's suggestion. The Honourable Member is reminded that the pay of karnams in Gódávari and Kistna has recently been raised.

The Hon'ble Mr. VENKATARATNAM PANTULU :—

979 [XXXIV] *Question.*—(*a*) Is Government aware of the inconvenience and delay caused in its operation by the rule, noted in the margin, purporting to have been made by the Board of Revenue under section 32 of the Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 9th November 1897?

10. The officers mentioned above (village officers) shall also reside in their villages and shall not absent themselves therefrom, except on public duty, without the permission of the Tahsildar or Divisional officer. Their applications for leave should be submitted through the proprietors concerned or their local agents to the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar, who will grant the leave or obtain the sanction of the Divisional officer as in Government villages and communicate the same to the proprietors or their local agents and to the village officers concerned.

(*b*) Was there any previous publication of this rule as required by section 32 of the Act? If so, when?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to order the amendment of the said rule, so as to vest, subject to such restrictions as may be deemed expedient, the power of granting leave to village officers in the proprietors of villages in whom the power of their appointment is vested under the Act?

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The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

Answer.—(*a*) The answer to clause (*a*) of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) A draft of the rules proposed to be made under section 32 of Act II of 1894 was duly published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 2nd June 1896 and objections and suggestions invited. In consequence of one of the suggestions received, the rule referred to by the Honourable Member was incorporated in the rules finally made and published.

(*c*) With regard to clause (*c*) a report will be called for on the subject.

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